



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

Kampala, the Republic of Uganda

19 – 20 January 2024

FINAL DOCUMENT

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries¹ met under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, from 19 to 20 January 2024, to review the progress and implementation of the provisions contained in the Final Document adopted during the XVIII Summit of the Movement, held on 25 – 26 October 2019 in the city of Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan and to address existing, new, and emerging issues of collective concern and interest of the Non-Aligned Movement. In this regard, they *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the Movement's abiding faith in and strong commitment to its founding principles², ideals and purposes, particularly in establishing a peaceful and prosperous world and a just and equitable world order, as well as to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.
2. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their appreciation and gratitude to the People and Government of the Republic of Uganda for the excellent organization, hospitality, and hosting of the 19th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement on 19 – 20 January 2024.
3. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their appreciation and gratitude to H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in his capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), for his efforts during the period 2019-2024 to promote and defend the principled positions of the Movement and the interests of its Member States in the international and multilateral arena, as well as for his role in advancing the revitalization and strengthening of the Movement, while fostering the unity and solidarity amongst its membership.
4. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the continued relevance, validity, and adherence to all principled positions and decisions of the Movement as contained in the substantive outcome documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of NAM held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 5-6 July 2023, 18th Mid-Term Ministerial Conference, held from 05-06 April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the 18th NAM Summit held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 25 – 26 October 2019, and the preceding seventeen Summit Conferences of the Movement³, as well as all preceding Ministerial Conferences or Meetings of the Movement. Likewise, they expressed their determination to preserve and act in keeping with the Bandung Principles and the purposes and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement in the present international juncture, as agreed in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture⁴ adopted at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, and the Bali Commemorative Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement.
5. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the NAM Chair's Report on the Movement's activities covering the period from the 18th NAM Summit held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, to date, which showed significant progress in implementing the NAM Plan of Action as stipulated in the Baku Final Document and the Baku Declaration, which contributed positively in the process of strengthening and revitalizing the Non-Aligned Movement.

¹ The list of NAM Member Countries appears in Annex I.

² The ten Founding Principles of NAM appears in Annex II.

³ The preceding seventeen NAM Summit Conferences were held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1961; Cairo, Egypt in 1964; Lusaka, Zambia in 1970; Algiers, Algeria in 1973; Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1976; Havana, Cuba in 1979; New Delhi, India in 1983; Harare, Zimbabwe in 1986; Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1989; Jakarta, Indonesia in 1992; Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in 1995, Durban, South Africa in 1998, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2003, Havana, Cuba in 2006; Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in 2009; Tehran, Iran (IR) in 2012; and Island of Margarita, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in 2016.

⁴ See: Annex III.

6. The Heads of State and Government *considered* the request of the Republic of South Sudan to join the Non-Aligned Movement on the basis of its principles and goals and *admitted* the Republic of South Sudan as a full Member State of the Non-Aligned Movement.

7. The Heads of State and Government warmly welcomed the offer of the Republic of Uzbekistan to host the 20th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement and assume the Chairmanship of the Movement for the term 2027-2029 and requested the NAM Member States to actively participate in that Summit.

CHAPTER I: GLOBAL ISSUES

Review of the International Situation

8. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* that the current global scenario presents great challenges in the areas of peace and security, economic development and social progress, human rights and the rule of law to Non-Aligned Countries. They *affirmed* that many new areas of concern and challenges have emerged, particularly the global financial and economic crisis, which warrant the renewal of commitment by the international community to uphold and defend the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and the principles of international law. In taking stock of developments at the international level since the XVIII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, they noted with concern that the collective desire of the Movement to establish a peaceful and prosperous world, as well as a just and equitable world order, predicated on the recognition of different national contexts, remains encumbered by fundamental impediments. These impediments are in the form of, inter alia, the severe adverse impact of the global financial and economic crises on the economic growth and development of developing countries which could lead to increasing poverty, including extreme poverty and deprivation in these countries, the continuing lack of resources and underdevelopment of the majority of the developing world, on the one hand which are further exacerbated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the multifaceted crises the world is facing nowadays, particularly in the fields of climate change, food security, desertification and debt crisis and inflation, water scarcity; and in the form of, inter alia, the continuing unequal terms of trade and the lack of cooperation from developed countries, as well as the coercive and unilateral measures imposed by some of them and the use of force or the threats of use of force, on the other hand. The rich and powerful countries continue to exercise an inordinate influence in determining the nature and direction of international relations, including economic and trade relations, as well as the rules governing these relations, *under the pretext of "Democracy", "Human Rights" and "Anti-Terrorism"*, many of which are at the expense of developing countries. The lack of fulfillment of the international obligations of States has become as well, a grave concern and a violation of the international law.

9. The Heads of State and Government *noted* with concern that highhandedness and arbitrariness are rampant while justice and truth are ruthlessly trampled underfoot; the core principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs in international relations are overtly disregarded on the international arena; the sovereignty and rights to existence and development of the NAM Member States are severely infringed upon; and political upheavals, armed conflicts, escalation of disputes and humanitarian disasters such as refugee flow occur in an unabated manner due to aggression, intervention, sanctions and pressure by the imperialist forces.

10. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that the Movement will remain guided in its endeavors by its Founding Principles, the principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture adopted in the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, the Bali Commemorative Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as the UN Charter and the international law. To this end, the Movement will continue to uphold the principles of sovereignty and sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal or external affairs of any State or Nation; take effective measures for

the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of peace to defend, promote, and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered; refrain in international relations from the threat or use of force, including aggressive military exercises against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; develop friendly relations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples in their struggle against foreign occupation; achieve international cooperation based on solidarity among peoples and governments in solving international problems of a political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character; and promote and encourage the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind.

11. The Heads of State and Government *noted* that the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges, including the multiple inter-related and mutually reinforcing remaining consequences of global crises, continue to impede efforts by States to attain greater economic development and social progress, peace and security, and the enjoyment of human rights and the rule of law. Global peace and security continue to elude humankind as a result of, *inter alia*, increasing tendency and deepening by certain States to resort to unilateralism, arbitrariness and the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, to the use and threat of use of force, non-fulfillment of the commitments and obligations assumed under the relevant international legally binding instruments especially on weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons treaties, terrorism, conflicts, violations of the Charter of the United Nations, human rights and international humanitarian law, the use of double standards in international relations, the continuing failure and unwillingness of the majority of the developed countries to fulfill their commitments in the economic and social fields. They *underscored* the need for the international community, in particular NAM Member States, to collectively redress these situations in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

12. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* that globalization continues to present opportunities, challenges and risks to the future and viability of developing countries and that the process of globalization and trade liberalization has produced uneven benefits among and within States while the global economy has been characterized by slow and lopsided growth and instability. Furthermore, it has made the developing countries, including small and vulnerable states susceptible to the adverse impact of the financial and economic crises, climate change, recurrent food crisis and energy prices volatility. In its present form, globalization perpetuates or even increases the growing inequality and the marginalization of developing countries. Therefore, globalization must be transformed into a positive force for change for all peoples, benefiting all nations and contributing to the prosperity and empowerment of developing countries not their continued impoverishment and dependence on the developed world, reaffirming also in this connection our full commitment with the provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law, and which reaffirms that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity, in line with relevant General Assembly resolutions, also reaffirming that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to ecosystems of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. The international community must strengthen international cooperation and avoid inward-looking policies and protectionism, so as to promote an inclusive world economy and generate greater positive effects of globalization. They *underscored* that there is need for a reform and strengthening of the international financial system, and to enhance the coordination of financial and economic policies at the international level. In addition, greater efforts must be made to generate a global strategy to prioritize and mainstream the development dimension into global processes, and in the relevant multilateral institutions, in order to enable developing countries to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and trade liberalization, including through the creation of an enabling external economic environment for

development that be inclusive and mutually beneficial, which requires greater coherence between the international trading, monetary and financial systems that should be universal, open, equitable, non-coercive, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory.

13. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the urgent need to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that go beyond GDP, that more adequately reflect the vulnerabilities, structural gaps and multidimensional challenges faced by developing countries, in order to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation, and to better inform access to concessional finance. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed, in this regard, the call to engage in intergovernmental discussions in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and regional economic commissions.

14. The Heads of State and Government *underscored* the need for the UN system to seriously address the introduction of new institutional arrangements to bring coherence and coordination to the distinct sets of rules applying to various areas of economic activity. The UN system should address the inter-linkage between economic globalization and sustainable development, in particular by identifying and implementing mutually reinforcing policies and practices that promote sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, including the importance of international cooperation, finance, technology and capacity-building to supporting national efforts, in line with national priorities and respecting each country's policy space.

15. The revolution in information and communication technologies continues to change the world rapidly and in a fundamental way, thus creating a vast and widening digital divide between the developed and developing countries. This digital divide has been taking new dimensions, including a growing gap in broadband connectivity between and within developed and developing countries in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies, and access to broadband and Internet, which must be bridged if developing countries are to benefit from the globalization process and of the enormous potentials of ICTs as important tools for economic, social and political development. The new technological innovations must be made more easily available to developing countries in their efforts to modernize and revitalize their economies in pursuit of their developmental goals and well-being of their populations, including through the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how, as well as the transfer of technology on preferential and concessional terms, all of which are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development. In this context, the achievement of these goals requires an enabling international environment and the honoring of commitments and pledges made by States, in particular the developed countries. In addition, the Movement underscores the need to prevent all discriminatory practices and policies that hinder access by developing countries to the benefits of information and communication technologies and to networks established in developed countries.

16. The future will present as many challenges and opportunities as the past and the Movement must continue to *remain* strong, cohesive and resilient in order to address them and preserve the historic legacy of the Movement. The continued relevance and validity of the Movement will depend, in large measure, on the unity and solidarity of each of its Member Countries as well as their ability to influence these changes positively. In this regard, the process of the revitalization and strengthening of the Movement must continue to be pro-active, advanced and consolidated.

17. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* that the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement should be strongly united more than ever and make concerted efforts to give full play to its influence by making united responses to major situations in a timely manner and to frustrate acts of highhandedness, arbitrariness, aggression and infringement upon sovereignty by the imperialist reactionary forces and to defend the sovereignty and the rights to existence and development.

18. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* that the NAM Member States shared valuable tradition and history of unity whereby they united around a single ideal irrespective of different historical backgrounds and environment and waged a joint struggle while mutually supporting and cooperating against policies of colonialism, domination and racial discrimination.

19. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the decision of the Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), held in Algiers in July 1999, calling for the restoration of constitutional legality in States whose governments had come to power through unconstitutional means, as well as the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in 2000 in Lomé, and in this context, *encouraged* the Non-Aligned Countries to continue to uphold the democratic ideals consistent with the Founding Principles of the Movement.

20. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the designation by the UN General Assembly of April 22 as the International Day of Mother Earth, and recognized that the Earth and its ecosystems are home to humanity. They *undertook* to raise awareness about this issue. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature to commemorate the International Mother Earth Day on 24 April 2023 to discuss the possibility of convening and the scope of a high-level meeting, tentatively entitled “Earth Assembly”, to be held on 22 April 2024, so that an evolving non-anthropocentric or Earth-centered paradigm continues to reinforce multilateralism through the discussion of alternative holistic approaches based on diverse world views that may contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond.

Non-Aligned Movement: Role and Methods of Work

21. Recognizing the aspirations of their peoples, the Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the Movement’s irrevocable political and moral commitment, and determination to and full respect for the Bandung Principles and those adopted at the Havana Summit in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the NAM in the Present International Juncture, the Bali Commemorative Declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the UN Charter as well as for their preservation and promotion, with a view to further consolidate and enhance the Movement’s role and position as the principal political platform representing the developing world in multilateral forums, in particular the United Nations. In this context, they *stressed* that achieving the principles, ideals and purposes of the Movement hinges upon the unity, solidarity and cohesion among its membership, firmly rooted on mutual respect, respect for diversity and tolerance.

22. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that solidarity, the highest expression of respect, friendship and peace among States, is a broad concept encompassing the sustainability of international relations, the peaceful coexistence, and the transformative objectives of equity and empowerment of developing countries, whose ultimate goal is to achieve the full economic and social development of their peoples.

23. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that, in the implementation of the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration, which reflects the institutional positions of the Movement vis-à-vis on various international issues, and the documents adopted by the previous NAM Summits and Ministerial Conferences, due consideration should be given to maximizing the ability of the Movement to deal with the current rapidly evolving global situations, crises and challenges.

24. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their determination that if any Member of the Movement suffers harm, whether this is economic, political or military in nature, or in terms of its security, as well as from the politicization of human rights, or if a Member suffers harm as a result of the imposition of unilateral sanctions or embargos the Movement should express its solidarity with the affected country through the provision of *political*, moral, material and other forms of assistance. To this end, the Heads of State and Government will *continue* to review the Movement’s existing mechanisms and explore new mechanisms for rendering such assistance, if necessary.

25. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that the Movement has been playing a key active, effective and central role over the years, on issues of concern and vital importance to its members, such as decolonization, apartheid, the situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine, the maintenance of international peace and security, and disarmament. After over half a century of its existence, and having undergone many challenges and vicissitudes, it is timely and appropriate to sustain and further consolidate the process of strengthening and revitalizing the Movement and continue to undertake actions that allow the Movement to effectively and efficiently address the main current challenges facing its Member Countries, as well as to forge a common vision of the future. In the context of existing and new threats and challenges, it is imperative for the Movement to continue to promote multilateralism, especially by strengthening the central role of the United Nations, including in Global Governance, defending the interests of developing countries and preventing their marginalization.

26. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their determination to further strengthen the unity and cohesion of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as a political force in the international political arena. In this context, and with a view to implementing mandates and decisions adopted during Summit or Ministerial Conferences, they agreed to make better use of and regularize, as appropriate, Ministerial Meetings in various fields of International Cooperation to address relevant and other pressing issues, in line with the provisions of the Colombo, Cartagena and Havana Documents on Methodology.

27. In rededicating the Movement to its principles, ideals and purposes, and consistent with the aforementioned principled positions, which should be defended, preserved and promoted through greater efforts by the Movement and the existing and any other potential mechanisms and arrangements of the Movement, the Heads of State and Government *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

27.1. Continue making progress in the process of revitalizing and strengthening the Movement with a view to achieving the purposes outlined in both the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture and the Document on the Methodology of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana and the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration, as well as the Bali Commemorative Declaration, which will enable the Movement to deal effectively with the challenges looming ahead. *Consolidate* the pro-active approach in the working dynamic of the Movement, maintaining and increasing our capacity to bring forth on behalf of the NAM concrete proposals in the debates and presentation of resolutions and other initiatives at the various United Nations organs and other international fora where NAM is represented;

27.2 Disseminate the outcome documents of the Summits and Ministerial levels conferences of the Non-Aligned Movement as official documents of the United Nations system, as appropriate;

27.3 Enhance the status and role of NAM as an anti-war peace-loving force and *oppose* any attempt to maintain aggressive military blocs and all forms of aggression, interference, subordination and inequality; and *make* a concerted effort to launch a counteraction against acts of aggression and war;

27.4 Take more bold and practical measures to safeguard the sovereign rights of the NAM Member States, as well as international peace and security, in conformity with its lofty mission and ideals as an anti-war peace-loving force, avoiding being an onlooker to interference in internal affairs of and acts of aggression targeted at its Member States;

27.5 Expand the Movement's scope wherever its members consider it more appropriate within the UN agencies or at other relevant international organizations or bodies, in accordance to the relevant decisions by the NAM Summits and/or Ministerial Conferences;

27.6 Continue to maintain, strengthen, and manifest the unity and solidarity among the membership of the Movement, particularly with those Non-Aligned Countries whose peoples are living under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation, or living in poverty or suffering ill-health, or victims of natural disasters, as well as those experiencing external threats of use of force, acts of aggression or unilateral coercive measures, including sanctions;

27.7 Sustain the process of reviewing, analyzing and strengthening the positions of the Movement on international issues, with a view to *further ensuring* the adherence to and promotion of its Founding Principles and the principles adopted at the 1st NAM Summit and those referred to in the Bali Commemorative Declaration, and *further consolidate* the common denominators among its membership;

27.8 *Continue* to review the role of the Movement in the context of current realities and *improve*, as appropriate, its structure and methods of work, including through strengthening existing mechanisms and arrangements⁵, creating new ones, as appropriate, and utilizing them to the fullest, convening regular meetings of such mechanisms and arrangements, generating a more focused and concise documentation, strengthening the role of the Chair as spokesperson of the Movement, working towards establishing a back-up mechanism to assist the Chair, through taking full advantage of and maximum benefit from the Movement's existing mechanisms and arrangements with the aim to continue promoting a more coordinated, effective and efficient Movement capable of responding in a timely manner to international developments affecting it and its Member Countries;

27.9 *Establish*, in light of the increasing tendency and deepening by certain States to resort to unilateralism, arbitrariness and the imposition of unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law, a Working Group on Unilateral Coercive Measures to be coordinated by Venezuela, which shall be responsible for the defense, preservation, promotion, articulation and advancement of the Movement's principled position in this regard at the international and multilateral level;

27.10 *Request* the Coordinating Bureau to consider, as appropriate, all proposals on enhancing the role and methods of work of the Movement;

27.11 *Emphasize* the need for NAM Documents to be concise, non-repetitive and succinct, highlighting issues of particular importance or urgency in line with the Cartagena Document on Methodology, and *instruct* NAM Member States' delegations to the UN to start a streamlining process through an open-ended Working Group, established by the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, to review NAM documents with a view to presenting a streamlined NAM final document.;

27.12 *Continue* to support the important and active role of the NAM Coordinating Bureau in New York and its Working Groups and Caucuses, whose work is highly recognized and appreciated, as well as to maintain the current mechanism of the NAM Troika, to assist the work of the Chair in order to enable the Movement to speak with one voice and to respond in a timely manner to international developments, and to promote the sharing of experiences and brainstorming on particular issues of interest to the Movement by the NAM Troika and the Former Chairs of the Movement. The activities and deliberations of the NAM Troika and/or the Former Chairs of the Movement shall continue to be reported to the Coordinating Bureau.

⁵ The existing mechanisms and arrangements include: the Former Chair Countries and Troika (at the Summit, Ministerial and Ambassadorial levels); the Committee on Palestine (at the Ministerial and Ambassadorial level); the Coordinating Bureau in New York and its subsidiary bodies (Working Groups on Disarmament, Human Rights, Legal Matters, Peacekeeping Operations, Reform of the UN and GA Revitalization, Reform of the Security Council, and Information); the NAM Chapters in Geneva, the Hague, Vienna and UNESCO (Paris), Nairobi; and the NAM Caucuses in the Security Council and in the Peace Building Commission.

27.13 *Advance* in the creation of a support mechanism to the Chair of the NAM to contribute to the efficient fulfillment of its mandates and tasks, in line with the Havana Document on Methodology.

27.14 *Enhance* the role of NAM Working groups and Caucuses in order to regularize communications and consultations between the relevant groups and NAM Member States and raising its voice against the moves targeted at NAM Member States, in view of the fact that some countries continue to misuse the United Nations for achieving unwarranted aims against developing countries. At the same time, the Movement will consider undertaking institutional steps to establish new Working Groups or Caucuses, as deemed necessary, with a view to implementing in good faith the decisions agreed at the Summit and/or Ministerial Conferences.

27.15 *Further enhance* the role of the NAM Working Group on Legal Matters, with a view to making constructive proposals for ensuring the legal protection of the interests of NAM Member States, in conformity with the UN Charter and international law, and to discussing ways for moving those proposals forward, as a common position of the Movement.

27.16 *Improve* the coordination of the work of the existing mechanisms of the Movement in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, Paris and The Hague in the work of the relevant UN organs and agencies, upon identifying their respective priority areas of concern and competence, bearing in mind the position of the Coordinating Bureau in New York as the focal point for coordination of the Movement and should continue to act as such.

27.17 *Expand and reinforce* the ability and capacity of the Movement for initiative, representation and negotiation as well as its ethical, political and moral strength and influence.

27.18 *Continue* to strengthen the coordination and cooperation as well as the formulation of common positions and strategies on economic development and social progress issues with the Group of 77 and China (G-77) through the Joint Coordinating Committee of the G-77 and NAM (JCC)⁶ to advance the collective concerns and interests of developing countries at the relevant international fora particularly in the context of UN reform, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in expanding and deepening South-South cooperation. Such coordination must be guided by the Terms of Reference, adopted between both fora in 1994.

27.19 In this same vein, the Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the successful convening of the Ministerial Meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the G77 and China on 22nd September 2023, in New York as a step towards the revitalization of this important and relevant mechanism for the beneficial exchange and coordination of positions between both groupings.

27.20 *Resolved* to make use of the current international endeavor to advance NAM principles in all international conferences, during both the preparation processes and the implementation of their outcomes. In this regard, they recalled the joint statement by the G-77 and the Non-Aligned Movement at the High-Level Segment of the UN General Assembly to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development held in New York, on 23 September 2016, in which they *reiterated* their unequivocal commitment to the right to development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

⁶ The JCC of the G-77 and NAM was established in 1994 with the primary objective to enhance collaboration, avoid duplication of efforts and provide greater efficiency in the attainment of the common goals of the developing countries, as well as to harmonize and coordinate the activities of both groupings in the economic and social fields within the context of South-South and North-South cooperation.

27.21 *Promote* coordination and cooperation between the G-77 and the NAM, wherever possible at all relevant multilateral fora to address issues of common concern to both groupings subject to their respective competencies.

27.22 *Expedite* its decision-making and improve its working Methods, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Cartagena Document on Methodology of the Movement⁷ and the Document on the Methodology of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, through determined and timely action in order to contribute more effectively in the multilateral process. In this regard, they *decided* to mandate the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau to assess and review, where applicable, and in consultation with Member States of the Movement, the working methods of the Non-Aligned Movement, and *look forward* to the consideration of the draft document on the “Recommended Guidelines for Enhancing the Implementation of the Working Methods and Practice of the Movement, particularly within its Coordinating Bureau” circulated by the Chair of the CoB-NAM on 23 June 2017, which in no way would modify, update or replace the Methodology agreed upon in Cartagena (1996) or Havana (2006), while recognizing that adherence to said working document has thus far contributed to enhancing the Movement’s role and stature as a leading global force, and to this end, stressing the importance of continuous adherence;

27.23 *Be more proactive* in addressing international developments which could adversely impact on the Movement and its Member Countries;

27.24 The Heads of State and Government *agreed* to effectively respond to the interests of NAM Member States on major international issues tabled and considered at the United Nations, in order to enhance its position and influence at the United Nations.

27.25 *Encourage* the interaction of the Ministers responsible for portfolios of relevance to the Movement, such as food production and agriculture, energy, culture, education, health, human resources, environment, information and communications, industry, science and technology, social progress, women and children, with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of the Movement and increasing the cooperation among its Member Countries in these areas. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the convening of the meetings of the Ministers responsible for labor, education, health, communication technologies and women held during 2020-2023 under Azerbaijani Chairmanship.

27.26 *Expand and deepen* its interaction and cooperation with parliamentarians, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector of Non-Aligned Countries on the recognition that they can perform a constructive role towards the attainment of the principles, ideals and purposes of the Movement.

27.27 *Encourage* Member States to consider using the sessions of the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) to advance their principled positions and common interests, while mindful of the intergovernmental character of the Movement. The Heads of State and Government noted the establishment of the Parliamentary Network of the Non-Aligned Movement and noted with appreciation the deliberations of its Madrid, Baku and Manama Conferences and the Luanda Meeting held on November 28, 2021; June 30-July 1, 2022; March 13, 2023; and October 25, 2023, respectively.

27.28 *Support*, as a further manifestation of solidarity of the Movement, the candidatures of Non-Aligned countries vis-à-vis non-Member countries, where appropriate, to the United Nations organs and bodies, including the Security Council and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as all subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, and to other bodies of international and specialized agencies, *bearing in mind* the ensuing obligation

⁷ The Cartagena Document on Methodology of the Movement was adopted by the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Methodology, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia from 14 to 16 May 1996. Subsequently, it was endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the Movement during their XII Summit, held in Durban, South Africa from 29 August to 3 September 1998.

of such Countries whose candidatures are successful owing to such support, to defend, preserve and promote the concerns and interests of the Movement in those organs and bodies, without prejudice to their sovereign rights. The Heads of State and Government also *agreed* to consider working towards ensuring adequate representation of NAM in all international fora, including through, *inter alia*, the creation of a database that will include information on candidatures of NAM Member States, except those to be dealt with within respective regional groups.

27.29 *Welcome* the election of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2024 (COP 29);

27.30 *Take note* of the election of Algeria, Bangladesh, Chile, Maldives, Morocco, South Africa and Vietnam to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations for the term 2023-2025, in elections held on 11 October 2022, in New York, within the framework of the 77th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

27.31 *Promote* actions so that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development meaningfully broadens and strengthens the voice and participation of developing countries while addressing issues of reform of the institutions related to the global economic governance;

27.32 The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the decision on modalities related to the institutional memory of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted by the XVII NAM Ministerial Conference held in Algiers, Algeria in May 2014, and *encouraged* all Member States to actively participate in the consultations to be undertaken by Algeria within the CoB, in order to establish a comprehensive website providing detailed and reliable information on the principles, purposes and activities of the Movement.

27.33 The Heads of State and Government *thanked* Algeria, in its capacity as the host of the first Ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 and China held in October 1967, for convening, for the first time, a meeting at Ministerial level, on 30 May 2014, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77 and China and look forward to the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77 and China in 2024.

28. The Heads of State and Government *noted* the importance of establishing an official emblem and flag of the Non-Aligned Movement that symbolizes unity, solidarity and cohesiveness among NAM Member States, and accords with its noble ideals, principles and mission. In this regard, they welcomed the launching of the process by Azerbaijani Chairmanship and expressed their desire that the Member States will demonstrate the necessary commitment to finalize the process as soon as possible.

29. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the organization of the High-Level NAM Conference dedicated to enhancing global dialogue in the name of peace, security and human development, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in December 2015.

30. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the need to work together towards re-energizing and reinvigorating NAM, according to the principles and objectives of the Movement, in particular the Bandung Principles. Towards this end, the Heads of State and Government emphasized the importance of revitalizing NAM considering ways to improve credibility and effectiveness of the Movement and its working.

International Law

31. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed and underscored* the continued relevance and validity of the Movement's principled positions concerning international law, as follows:

31.1 The Heads of State and Government *reemphasized* that the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles and rules of international law are indispensable in preserving and promoting peace and security, the rule of law, economic development and social progress, and all human rights for all. In this context, UN Member States, including those of the Security Council, should renew their commitment to respect, defend, preserve, and promote the UN Charter and international law, with the aim of making further progress to achieving full respect for international law.

31.2 The Heads of State and Government *expressed deep concern* at and *rejected* the unilateral exercise by certain countries of extra-territorial criminal and civil jurisdiction of national courts not emanating from international treaties and other rights and/or obligations arising from international law, including international humanitarian law. In this regard, they *are deeply concerned* on the enactment of politically motivated domestic laws directed against other States, and *stressed* the negative impact of such measures on the rule of international law as well as on international relations, and *called for* the immediate cessation of all such measures.

31.3 The Heads of State and Government *underlined* that the strict observance of the principles of international law and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, is of the utmost importance for the maintenance of international peace and security, and *reaffirmed* that NAM Member States shall respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty, political independence and inviolability of international borders of Member States; and *committed* to support and promote these principles of international law. Accordingly, NAM Member States *shall refrain* from any action against the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of any State or inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

31.4 The Heads of State and Government *called upon* States to respect applicable rules of international law with respect to immunities of official representatives of States as well as jurisdictional immunities of States and, in this regard, *recalled* the decisions of the International Court of Justice in the case concerning the circulation of Arrest Warrant of 14 February 2002⁸ and the case concerning the jurisdictional immunities of the State of 03 February 2012⁹;

31.5 Realizing that an abusive exercise of Universal Jurisdiction can have negative effects on international relations, the Heads of State and Government *called upon* States to refrain from such abuse, and also *recognized* the need for further consideration at the United Nations of the agenda item entitled "Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction", and *took note*, in this regard, of the establishment of the Working Group in the Sixth Committee, in accordance with resolution 69/124, to continue to undertake a thorough discussion aimed at identifying the scope and application of Universal Jurisdiction and to consider establishing a mechanism to monitor such application and to prevent its abuse in the future;

31.6 The Heads of State and Government *strongly condemned* all acts of violence against diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, as well as against missions and representatives to international intergovernmental organizations and officials of such organizations, emphasized that such acts can never be justified and *underlined* the obligation of all States to ensure the security and safety of the members and premises of diplomatic and consular missions as well as their inviolability in accordance with international law, the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations as well as the relevant UN General Assembly resolutions;

⁸ ICJ Case of Arrest Warrant of 11 April 2000 (Democratic Republic of Congo v. Belgium)

⁹ Judgment issued in the case Jurisdictional Immunities of the State (Germany v. Italy: Greece intervening)

31.7 The Heads of State and Government *expressed their deep concern* on the inaction of the authorities of the host Country of the UN in the face of hostile actions that take place in the vicinity of the headquarters of certain diplomatic missions accredited to the United Nations, which make it impossible for said diplomatic representations to properly carry out their functions, in accordance with Article 22.2 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations;

31.8 The Heads of State and Government expressed their serious concerns regarding the impediments and measures imposed by the Host Country of the United Nations Headquarters in New York against representatives of certain Member States including impediments on the freedom of movement, the secondary screening and the so-called “Transportation Security Administration” (TSA) procedure at the Host Country airports which constitute violation of international law, including relevant customary international law and the relevant international legal instruments, inter alia, Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations and the United States Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations (1947), the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (1946) and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961);

31.9 The Heads of State and Government *strongly condemned* the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade and are inconsistent with international law. They *called for* the immediate elimination of such measures and *urged* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to fully comply with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation, and accordingly, refrain from promulgating and application of such unilateral economic and trade measures against other States.

31.10 The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the need to elaborate the rule of law concept through inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process and *reaffirmed* that respect for the rule of law is essential to maintain international peace and security as well as to achieve socioeconomic development; at the same time, they *reiterated* that it is indispensable to maintain the balance in developing the national and international dimensions of the rule of law;

31.11 The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* that the rule of law at the international level requires greater attention by the United Nations. The Charter of the United Nations and the principles enshrined therein provide normative guidance as to the basis of the rule of law at the international level. All United Nations bodies and structures, including the treaty bodies, must strictly comply with their mandates given by their Member States.

31.12 The Heads of State and Government *rejected* the illegal practice of the United States in defying international law by allowing and facilitating private plaintiffs to bring civil action before U.S. courts against sovereign States, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, leading to the awards of default judgments against them and their national institutions. They *objected* to US defiance to international law through the unilateral waiving of the sovereign immunity of States and their institutions in total contravention of the international and treaty obligations of the United States and under a spurious legal ground that the international community does not recognize. They also strongly urged the United States of America to respect the principle of State immunity and *reiterated* that failing to do so would have adverse implications, including uncertainty and chaos in international relations and the undermining of the rule of law at the international level, and would constitute an international wrongful act, which entails international responsibility.

32. Recognizing the serious danger and threats posed by the actions and measures which seek to undermine international law and international legal instruments, the Heads of State and Government, consistent with and guided by the Movement’s principled positions thereof, *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

32.1 *Identify and pursue* measures that may contribute towards achieving a peaceful and prosperous world as well as a just and equitable world order based on the UN Charter and international law;

32.2 *Conduct external relations* based on the ideals, principles and purposes of the Movement, the UN Charter and international law, as well as the “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States, in accordance with the Charter of the UN”, the “Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security” and the “Declaration on the Enhancement of Effectiveness of the Principles of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations”;

32.3 *Firmly oppose* the unilateral evaluation and certification of the conduct of States as a means of exerting pressure on Non-Aligned Countries and other countries, in particular developing countries;

32.4 *Refrain* from recognizing, adopting or implementing extra-territorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures, and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on Non-Aligned Countries – threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment – and prevent them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, where such measures or laws constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law, the multilateral trading system as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States;¹⁰ and in this regard, *oppose and condemn* these measures or laws and their continued application, *persevere* with efforts to effectively reverse them and *urge* other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other UN organs; *request* States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately;

32.5 *Reaffirm and underscore* the provisions of the Political Declaration unanimously adopted during the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the “Promulgation and Implementation of Unilateral Coercive Measures, in violation of International Law and the Human Rights of the Peoples subjected to them”, held on 20 September 2017, in New York, on the margins of the High-Level Segment of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly;

32.6 *Support*, in accordance with international law, the claim of affected States, including the targeted States, to compensation for the damage incurred as a consequence of the implementation of extraterritorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws;

32.7 *Oppose*, while reiterating the utmost importance of preserving the delicate balance of rights and obligations of States as stipulated in the various international legally binding instruments to which they are party, the actions by a certain group of States to unilaterally reinterpret, redefine, redraft or apply selectively the provisions of these instruments to conform with their own views and interests and which might affect the rights of their States Parties as defined therein; and in this context, *work* towards ensuring that the integrity of these instruments is preserved by their States Parties;

32.8 *Oppose* all attempts to introduce new concepts of international law aimed at internationalizing of certain elements contained in the so-called extra- territorial laws of certain States through multilateral agreements;

32.9 *Endeavor* to generate further progress to achieve full respect for international law and, in this regard, *commend* the role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in promoting the peaceful settlement of international disputes, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UN Charter and the Statute of the ICJ, in particular articles 33 and 94 of the Charter;

¹⁰ These include the “Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co- operation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations” adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970.

32.10 *Urge* the Security Council to make greater use, of the ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the UN, as a source of advisory opinions and interpretation of relevant norms of international law and on controversial issues; *further urge* the Council to use the ICJ as a source of interpreting relevant international law, and *also urge* the Council to consider that its decisions be reviewed by the ICJ, bearing in mind the need to ensure their adherence to the UN Charter, and international law;

32.11 *Invite* also the General Assembly, the other organs of the United Nations and the duly authorized specialized agencies, to request, advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice on legal questions arising within the scope of their activities.

32.12 The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the UN General Assembly's adoption of resolution 77/276 on "Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States in respect of climate change" by consensus, on 29 March 2023, which requests the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on the obligations of States under international law to ensure the protection of the climate system, while recalling that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, adopted under the Convention, will be implemented to reflect the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances;

32.13 The Heads of State and Government *continued to call* on Israel, the occupying Power, to fully respect the 9 July 2004 ICJ advisory opinion entitled "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory", and *calls upon* all States and the United Nations to respect and ensure respect of the provisions therein, for the realization of the end of the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the independence of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital;

32.14 The Non-Aligned States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) shall *continue to preserve* the integrity of the Statute and *ensure* that the ICC remains impartial and fully independent of political organs of the UN, which should not instruct nor impede the functions of the ICC, *bearing in mind* the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute.

32.15 The Heads of State and Government *expressed* strong concern on the abuse of certain provisions of the Rome Statute by the Security Council, including its practice to purport to selectively limit the jurisdiction of the ICC when referring matters to the ICC and *noted* that the practice amounts to an abuse of the powers of the Security Council to refer matters to the ICC.

32.16 The Non-Aligned States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC *recalled* the Review Conference of the Rome Statute, which was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 31 May to 11 June 2010, at which States parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Rome Statute and adopted amendments to the Statute to define the crime of aggression and to establish conditions under which the Court could exercise jurisdiction with respect to that crime;

32.17 The Non-Aligned States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC *continued to underscore* the necessity of the independence of the ICC, in accordance with its judicial nature. They *stated* that the Security Council's responsibilities under the Charter of the UN should not limit the role of the Court as a judicial body. The Court should be empowered to pronounce on acts of aggression independently.

32.18 The Non-Aligned State Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC *oppose* all actions, in particular through the Security Council, aimed at establishing a process to grant immunity to the staff members of UN peacekeeping operations, which violate the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the ICC and damage the credibility and independence of the ICC;

32.19 *Call upon* the Non-Aligned States Parties to the relevant treaties to work collectively to increase and enhance their representation and coordination in the bodies established through those treaties, and *support* the candidatures of their experts effectively as a further manifestation of solidarity among them;

32.20 The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the historic significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in 1982, as one of the most comprehensive legal instruments negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations, and *emphasized* its importance for its States Parties as the primary instrument which, *inter alia*, confers rights on coastal States for the exploration and exploitation of the living and non-living marine resources within national jurisdiction, as well as *establishes* a framework for access by other States to these resources; and *defines* the rights and responsibilities of States in their use of the world's oceans, including their general obligations to protect and preserve the marine environment. They also *recalled* the importance of the designation by the Convention of the seabed, subsoil and ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction as the common heritage of mankind, as well as the establishment of the International Seabed Authority, to organize, control and administer all activities of the State parties in the area on behalf of the international community and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of the Convention;

32.21 The Heads of State and Government of State Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) *reaffirmed* their shared commitment to maintaining and promoting international and regional peace, security and stability, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law. They welcomed the fortieth anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on 10 December 1982 at Montego Bay, Jamaica, and recognized the pre-eminent contribution provided by the Convention to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations¹¹. They also noted with satisfaction the establishment of the Group of Friends of UNCLOS in 2021 with a view to enhance understanding and international cooperation in the implementation of this Convention;

32.22 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption by consensus, on 19 June 2023, of a new international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. They reiterated the importance of this new legally binding instrument as satisfying the need for the comprehensive global regime under the Convention to better address the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction and contributing to the realization of a just and equitable international economic order which takes into account the interests and needs of humankind as a whole and, in particular, the special interests and needs of developing States, whether coastal or landlocked, through capacity-building and the development and transfer of marine technology, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from activities with respect to marine genetic resources and digital sequence information on marine genetic resources of areas beyond national jurisdiction. They encouraged NAM Member States to sign this important instrument, which was opened for signature on 20 September 2023 and ratify, approve, or accept it at the earliest possible date to allow its entry into force. They also stressed the need of a wide participation of developing countries in the new legal regime to preserve the principle of equitable geographical representation and equal partnership, in order to increase the participation of developing countries in international decision-making under the instrument. They took note of Chile's offer to host the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of the areas beyond national jurisdiction.

¹¹ Taken from the Resolution 77/248 of the UN General Assembly to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the UNCLOS

32.23 The Heads of State and Government *recalled* UN General Assembly resolution 76/296 of 21 July 2022, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: our responsibility”, adopted by the High-Level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in Lisbon from 27 June to 01 July 2022, as well as General Assembly resolution 71/312 of 06 July 2017 in which it endorsed the declaration entitled “Our ocean, our future: call for action” adopted by the Conference held in New York. In this regard, they affirmed the important role of the aforementioned declarations in demonstrating the collective determination to act decisively and urgently to improve the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystem. In this context, they also welcomed the adoption of resolution 77/242 by UN General Assembly, on 20 December 2022, which decided to convene the 2025 High-Level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be held in France in June 2025;

33. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the convening, on 21 September 2022, in New York, on the margins of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly, of a Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in Post-Pandemic Global Recovery: The Way Forward”, as well as the Political Declaration unanimously adopted at that time.

Promotion Preservation and Revitalization of Multilateralism

34. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed *and underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the promotion and preservation of multilateralism and the multilateral process and their commitment to a strengthened multilateralism, as follows, especially in the current juncture when multilateralism is under attack:

34.1 The Movement *reaffirmed* that the United Nations, its Charter, and the international law remain indispensable tools and central in the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security and the strengthening of international cooperation. While acknowledging its limitations, the UN, which represents a well-founded international legitimacy and through its multilateralism, remains the central multilateral forum for addressing the pressing global issues and challenges presently being confronted by all States. The responsibility for managing and achieving worldwide economic development and social progress as well as responding to threats to international peace and security must be shared among all States and exercised multilaterally through the UN, which must play the central role thereof;

34.2 The Heads of State and Government stressed the concern over the continued erosion of multilateralism as a result inter alia, of the non-compliance with international obligations, the adoption of unilateral coercive measures by some States, and the promotion of non-inclusive events or processes to address issues of global and common interest. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the absolute validity and necessity of upholding of multilateral diplomacy.

34.3 *Remained* seized of and active in further deliberations in the UN General Assembly on the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, in accordance with paragraphs 138,139 and 140 of the 2005 Summit Outcome Document, bearing in mind the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as respect for fundamental human rights;

34.4 The Movement also *reaffirmed* the commitment to discuss and define human security in the UN General Assembly, in conformity with the principles enshrined in the Charter and taking into consideration the common understanding of the notion of the human security in

General Assembly resolution 66/290. The Movement *stressed* that the national ownership, leadership and capacity building are essential elements in the consideration of this issue. The Movement also *affirmed* that particular attention should be given to peoples under foreign occupation to ensure their unhindered accessibility to humanitarian assistance and that the occupying powers fulfill their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law. The Heads of State and Government took note of the presentation of the Secretary-General on Human Security (A/68/685) as follow up to General Assembly resolution 66/290;

34.5 The Movement *reiterated* its strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures that undermine the UN Charter and international law, and further reiterated its commitment to promoting, preserving, revitalizing, reforming and strengthening multilateralism and the multilateral decision making process through the UN, by strictly adhering to its Charter and international law, with the aim of creating a just and equitable world order and global democratic governance;

34.6 The Heads of State and Government underlined that multilateralism does not represent, in any way, a threat to the sovereignty or to the national interests of any State, and that it is rather a means to address the complex and newly emerging threats and challenges that affect every member of the international community, in an increasingly interdependent world, and to ensure the realization of the principle of sovereign equality of States.

34.7 The Heads of State and Government *underlined* the critical role of the host countries of the United Nations Headquarters and Offices in preserving multilateralism and facilitating multilateral diplomacy and inter-governmental norm making processes, and *called upon* all States which host the United Nations Headquarters and Offices to facilitate, in accordance with their obligation under the related Headquarters Agreements and the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, the presence of the representatives of the Member States in the relevant meetings of the United Nations, as well as recalled that the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement shall be applicable irrespective of the bilateral relations existing between the Governments and the Host Country;

34.8 The Heads of State and Government expressed their serious and grave concern about the denial of or the delay in the issuance of entry visas to the representatives of any NAM Member States by the host country of the United Nations Headquarters and *reiterated* that political considerations shall not interfere with the provision of facilities required under the Headquarters Agreement for the Member States to participate in the United Nations activities.

34.9 The Heads of State and Government reiterated their call *upon* the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a resolution establishing a Committee of the United Nations Organization on Relations with the Host Country in Geneva in order to facilitate and enhance structured dialogue with the authorities of the host government;

34.10 The Heads of State and Government expressed their serious concern about the arbitrary movement restrictions imposed on the diplomatic officials of some missions of NAM Member States by the Host Country of the United Nations Headquarters. Such restrictions constitute flagrant violations of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Headquarter Agreements and the international law. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government opposed these restrictions and their continued application and *urged* the Host Country to take without delay all necessary measures to remove them and ensure freedom of movement and travel to all members of the diplomatic missions in its territory, in accordance with Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations;

34.11 The Heads of State and Government , in light of the above, *directed* the Coordinating Bureau to initiate consultations amongst the Member States of the Movement, to be followed by consultations with the wider membership of the United Nations, with a view to present before the General Assembly a short and action-oriented draft resolution demanding the

Secretary-General to take steps under section 21 of the Headquarters Agreement and requesting the Host Country of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities, by virtue of relevant Headquarter Agreements and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, including the timely issuance of entry visas and the removal of arbitrary movement restrictions, with a view to ensure that delegations of Member State have the capacity to fully exercise their right of participation in multilateral meetings, as well as their diplomatic duties and official responsibilities in a proper manner;

34.12 The Heads of State and Government stated that international trade is a vital tool to provide long-term sustainable growth. Due to the global financial and economic crisis, the decline in trade has had a severe impact on developing countries through the fall in exports and loss of export revenues, trade barriers and trade distorting subsidies in developed countries, restricted access to trade finance and reduced investment in production diversification and in the promotion of exports remain a matter of concern. The Heads of State and Government rejected the protectionist policies being pursued by certain countries, which represents a step backwards for multilateral trade. In order to fully harness the potential of trade, it is important to uphold a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that contributes to inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication, in all its forms and dimensions, sustainable development and employment, particularly for developing countries.

35. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 73/127 entitled “International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace”, which was promoted by the Non-Aligned Movement, in line with the provisions of the Political Declaration adopted on 26 September 2018 on the need to “Uphold the UN Charter and the NAM Purposes and Principles: Towards a Culture of Peace”, and which is a recognition of the role of the Movement in the promotion and preservation of multilateralism and in the facilitation of diplomacy.

36. The Heads of State and Government further *welcomed*, in this regard, the establishment of 24 April as the “International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace”, noting that the said date has special significance as it coincides with the conclusion of the Afro-Asian Conference of 1955 that resulted in the promulgation of the Bandung Principles and laid the ground for the establishment of the Movement. They underlined that this International Day constitutes a means to promote the values of the United Nations and to reaffirm the faith of our peoples in the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter, to reaffirm the importance and relevance of multilateralism and international law and to advance the common goal of lasting and sustained peace through diplomacy. They also recognized the central role of the United Nations, as the representative international organization and the utmost expression of multilateralism, which is the main instrument to address multifaceted and complex global challenges through collective action.

37. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the convening of a High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations, on 24 April 2019, to promote and commemorate, for the first time ever, the “International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace”. They called on Member States to observe this important day in an appropriate manner and to disseminate the advantages of multilateralism and diplomacy for peace, including through education and public awareness-raising activities.

38. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 73/286 through which the “International Delegate’s Day” was established, with the purpose of highlighting the role of delegates of the Members States of the United Nations in fulfilling the main goals of the Organization, in particular in maintaining international peace and security and in employing international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as in promoting effective multilateralism.

39. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the role of South-South cooperation, as a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South Cooperation in the overall context of multilateralism as a continuing process, vital to confronting threats and challenges facing developing countries in advancing economic development and social progress, promoting and preserving peace and security, and promoting and protecting all human rights, in particular the right to development, and the rule of law.

40. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and affirming the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, The Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures, among others:

40.1 Promote and work towards creating a multi-polar world through the strengthening of multilateralism through the UN and the multilateral processes, which are indispensable in promoting and preserving the interests of Non-Aligned Countries;

40.2 Initiate further vigorous transparent and inclusive initiatives to achieve the realization of multilateral cooperation in the areas of economic development and social progress, peace and security, and human rights for all and the rule of law, including through enhancing the Movement's unity, solidarity and cohesiveness on issues of collective concern and interests, with the aim of shaping the multilateral agenda to embrace development as a fundamental priority, which should take into account the need for developing and developed countries and international institutions to intensify partnerships and coordinate their efforts and resources to effectively address all imbalances in the global agenda;

40.3 Strengthen the articulation of the NAM's agreed positions and its relevant agreements in the UN Security Council, through the NAM Coordinating Bureau and the NAM Caucus in the Security Council, in accordance with the Movement's principles. In this context, the Heads of State and Government encouraged participation, whenever appropriate, by NAM Observers who are members of the Council in the meetings of the NAM Caucus in the Council and exchange of views, whenever appropriate, with like-minded non-NAM Members on issues of common concern;

40.4 Work towards achieving a universal, rule-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system stressing the value of multilateralism to achieve a balanced, development oriented and successful conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations, according to its mandate; and urge all States to fulfill their commitments to shape globalization as a positive force and that its benefits are shared evenly by all;

40.5 Strengthen the comparative advantages of existing multilateral arrangements and institutions and to continue ongoing efforts towards consensus based reform of the multilateral architecture without compromising the principle of equitable geographical representation and equal partnerships, and promote the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the participation of Non-Aligned Countries in international decision making;

40.6 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the United Nations is the only global body with universal membership and unquestioned legitimacy and is, therefore, well positioned to address global economic governance with the objective of reaching sustainable development. The role of the UN in global economic governance should thus be strengthened. For the United Nations to fulfill its role in global economic governance, the political will of all Member States to commit to the UN processes and to multilateralism and its underlying values is critical. Member States must commit to working in solidarity on coordinated and comprehensive global responses to global economic governance issues and to undertaking actions aimed at strengthening the role of the UN Development System in responding to global

crises and their impact on development. For this, the UN must also be equipped with the necessary resources and capabilities to effectively and quickly address global challenges;

40.7 *Stress* the importance for the international financial institutions to take concrete steps to democratize their work, including increasing the participation of developing countries and mobilize financial resources for growth and sustainable development of developing countries. Moreover, it is critically important that the financial sector is transparent, accountable and properly regulated so that the financial flows can be mobilized to achieve sustainable and inclusive economic growth;

40.8 *Oppose* unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures by certain States which can lead to the erosion and violation of the UN Charter, international law and human rights, the use and threat of use of force, and pressure and coercive measures as a means to achieving their national policy objectives; and

40.9 *Strengthen* South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, including through enhancing the capacities of relevant institutions and mechanisms, as indispensable means to promote and preserve multilateralism and the multilateral process. In this regard, the Chair may invite new ideas aimed at fostering greater South-South cooperation amongst NAM Member States;

40.10 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the decision of the High Level Committee of the General Assembly on South-South Cooperation (HLC) in 2012 to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation as the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), hosted by the UNDP, as a separate entity and coordinator for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis and *called*, in this regard, for the full implementation of the paragraph 78 of QCPR. In this context, the UNOSSC is in the best position to oversee the implementation of South-South cooperation, especially through the ongoing implementation of an inter-agency coordination mechanism under the UN Development Group, and further requested the up-scaling of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) with additional human, financial and budgetary resources, as stated in General Assembly Resolution 69/239.

41. The Heads of State and Government took *note* with appreciation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his Report “Our Common Agenda” with view a to reinvigorate multilateralism and turbocharge the implement the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. In this regard, they reaffirmed that all related processes should be inter-governmental, and Member State driven, based on inclusive, transparent and comprehensive dialogue and consultation, ensuring synergies and avoiding duplication across the UN system.

Peaceful Settlement of Disputes, and Non-Use or Threat of Use of Force

42. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the Movement’s principled positions concerning peaceful settlement of disputes, and non-use or threat of use of force, as follows:

42.1 It is incumbent upon all States to defend, preserve and promote the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the principles of international law, in particular peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use or threat of use of force.

42.2 The Heads of State and Government reiterated the basic principle of the UN Charter that all States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the UN. The Movement *stressed* that the UN Charter contains sufficient provisions regarding the use of force to maintain and preserve international peace and security, and that achieving this goal by the Security Council should

be strictly done in full conformity with the relevant Charter provisions. Resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not pose a threat to international peace and security must be avoided and in this regard, the Council should fully utilize the relevant Charter provisions, where appropriate, including Chapters VI and VIII. In addition, and consistent with the practice of the UN and international law as pronounced by the ICJ, Article 51 of the UN Charter is restrictive and should not be re-written or re-interpreted.

42.3 The Heads of State and Government expressed their serious concern and complete dismay at the victimization of innocent civilians in instances where force has been employed or sanctions have been imposed, including those authorized by the Security Council. In the spirit of the UN Charter, they *called on* all States to advance the principle of the non-use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes as a means to achieving collective security rather than the threat of force or use of force, bearing in mind “that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest” as stipulated in the UN Charter.

42.4 The Heads of State and Government recalled that the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes is a landmark declaration, building upon the UN Charter, in particular its Article 33, and that it was negotiated on the initiative of NAM member countries. They welcomed resolution 76/116 to mark the 40th year of its adoption by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 November, 2022. They noted the timely call on to all States to observe and promote in good faith the Manila Declaration in the peaceful settlement of their international disputes, in accordance with the resolution, and welcomed activities and initiatives spearheaded by the Movement, in this regard.

42.5 The Heads of State and Government highlighted the importance of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and in this regard, the Heads of State and Government emphasized the NAM proposal on the Pacific settlement of disputes and its impact on the maintenance of peace, presented before the Committee in February 2015 and *encouraged* to increase the constructive engagement of the Member States in this matter.

43. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and affirming the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures, among others:

43.1 *Call upon* the international community to renew its commitment to uphold and defend the principles of the UN Charter and international law as well as the means envisaged in the UN Charter for the pacific settlement of dispute and non-resort to the threat or use of force;

43.2 *Promote and preserve* dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-faith dialogue, which would contribute towards peace and security, *taking into account* the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the UN Charter, the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, and the Declaration on the Enhancement of Effectiveness of the Principles of Refraining from the Threat or Use of Force in International Relations¹²;

43.3 *Strengthen* the role of the Movement in peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, confidence building, and post-conflict peace building and rehabilitation in or between Non-Aligned Countries, in particular through seriously identifying concrete measures to expedite the creation of a NAM mechanism in this regard, whose terms of reference must be in conformity with its Founding Principles, the UN Charter and international law. Any such mechanism should be based on the consent of the States concerned.

¹² These include the “Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations” adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970, General Assembly Resolution 2734 (XXV) of 16 December 1970 and General Assembly Resolution 42/22 of 18 November 1987.

43.4 *Oppose* and condemn labeling of NAM countries and peoples by certain States through use of pejorative terms as well as systematic vilification of other States' political and social systems, their traditions and culture, to exert political pressure;

43.5 *Express* their gravest concern at the anti-ethical intention to totally destroy a sovereign Member State of the Movement, beyond the boundary of threats of regime-change or overturn of social system, and, in this regard, to reject and categorically condemn this as a flagrant infringement of the UN Charter and international law.

43.6 *Oppose* and *condemn* any categorization of countries as good or evil based on unilateral and unjustified criteria, and the adoption of the doctrine of pre-emptive attack, including attack by nuclear weapons by certain States, which is inconsistent with international law, in particular the international legally-binding instruments concerning nuclear disarmament; and *further oppose and condemn* all military actions including aggressive joint military exercises, or deployment of nuclear strategic assets, or use of force or threat of use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Non-Aligned Countries which constitute acts of aggression and blatant violations of the principles of the UN Charter, including non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

43.7 *Promote*, in ensuring international peace and security, the diversity of approaches to development and progress consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law as a core value of the Non- Aligned Countries;

43.8 *Recall* that States shall seek in good faith and in a spirit of co-operation an early and equitable settlement of their international disputes by any of the following means: negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional arrangements or agencies or other peaceful means of their own choice, including good offices. In seeking such a settlement, the parties shall agree on such peaceful means as may be appropriate to the circumstances and the nature of their dispute and consistent with the UN Charter;

43.9 *Recognize* the growing interest in and the provision of mediation and its use as a promising and cost-effective tool in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution, without prejudice to other means mentioned in Chapter VI of the Charter, including the use of arbitration and the roles and functions of the International Court of Justice.

43.10 The Heads of State and Government referred to resolution 68/303 of the General Assembly which encourages Member States, as well as the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations, to increase the awareness on the importance of mediation, as appropriate, through, *inter alia*, the organization of conferences, seminars and workshops, and in this regard *took note of* regional initiatives to strengthen mediation in their regions.

Culture of Peace, Dialogue among Civilizations, Religions and Cultures, and Cultural Diversity

44. The Heads of State and Government noted that the world today is composed of States with diverse history, traditions, values and cultural diversity, whose stability can be guaranteed by the universal recognition of their right to freely determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems. In this context, they emphasized that respect for the diversity of such systems and approaches is a core value which relations and cooperation among States in an increasingly globalizing world should be based on, with the aim of contributing to establishing a peaceful and prosperous world, a just and equitable world order, and an environment conducive to exchanging human experiences. They *underscored* that the promotion of dialogue among civilizations and the culture of peace globally, in particular through the full implementation of

the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its Programme of Action and the Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace could contribute towards that end.

45. The Heads of State and Government recalled the important role of States, media, religious bodies, NGOs, and regional organizations in promoting tolerance, dialogue and respect for religions and cultural diversity,

46. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the Global Forums of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) that were held consecutively since 2008, and appreciated its efforts for strengthening international partnerships and generate ideas aimed at building trust and cooperation among diverse actors and stakeholders in the promotion of dialogue among civilizations while also *stressing* the need to maintain the intergovernmental status of the UN and all its related entities, and the role of sovereign States as basic guidelines for the mandate of the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC).

47. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the outcomes of the Eighth Global Forum of the UNAOC held on 19-20 November 2018, in New York, and the active participation of UN Member States, international organizations and civil society in the Global Forum, and *welcomed* the activities carried out by UNAOC in 2017 and 2018 to promote dialogue on issues related to education, migrants, refugees, the role of youth and media, among others.

48. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the Fez Declaration that was adopted during the Ninth United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Global Forum, that was held in Fez, Kingdom of Morocco, on 22-23 November 2022 under the theme “Towards an alliance of peace: living together as one humanity”, that discussed ways of promoting diversity, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and inter-civilizational pluralism.

49. The Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1999 to serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations and they *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 73/68 and the efforts made by the UN and its Member States on the Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, as presented by Bangladesh at the 76th UNGA Session. They further *welcomed* General Assembly resolutions 71/275 on International Day of Neutrality and 73/129 on Promotion of Inter-religious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding, Cooperation for Peace, as presented by Pakistan and the Philippines. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* their commitment to ensure that the promotion of a culture of peace at the national, regional, continental and global level be a powerful enabler towards realization of the right to development especially the mediums to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and *invited* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expanding their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels, and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels.

50. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged that tolerance, pluralistic tradition and respect for the right to freedom of religion or belief promote values of human fraternity and a culture of peace.

51. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the successful holding on 13 September 2019 of the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, on the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action, convened by the President of the Assembly, at which Member States emphasized a wide-ranging partnership and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil society for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action, and further welcomed the successful holding on 7 September 2021 of the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the Assembly, at which Member States and

observers of the General Assembly and other stakeholders renewed their commitments to the full and effective implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action.

52. The Heads of State and Government *referred* to the invitation to the UN Secretary-General by the Member States through resolution 76/68, to explore mechanisms and strategies, in particular strategies in the sphere of information and communications technology, for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action and to initiate outreach efforts to increase global awareness of the Programme of Action, within existing resources, in consultation with the Member States and taking into account the contributions of other relevant stakeholders.

53. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the initiative of President Rouhani of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which led to the adoption of resolutions 68/127, and 70/109 and 72/241 entitled “a world against violence and violent extremism” by the UN General Assembly at its 68th, 70th and 72nd sessions. In this context, they *urged* all Member States to unite against violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations as well as sectarian violence and encouraged the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of violent extremism and discrimination and evolve strategies to address these causes.

54. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the dialogue among all cultures, civilizations and religions should be a durable process and that, in the current international environment, it is not an option but an imperative, sound, and productive tool to promote economic and social development, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, to guarantee a better life for all. They *further reaffirmed* in this context that tolerance, acceptance, reconciliation, mutual understanding and respect are fundamental values of international relations and that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind and the attainment of human rights for all. The Heads of State and Government further *appreciated* the efforts made by Member States at the 70th UNGA Session by reaffirming their commitment to Culture and Sustainable Development, including through the adoption resolution 70/214. They *recalled* that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, *inter alia*, the natural and cultural diversity of the world is acknowledged and it is recognized that cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.

55. Bearing in mind that the current challenges facing the international community need to be resolutely addressed by all nations through multilateralism, the Heads of State and Government acknowledged initiatives by NAM Member States for promoting peace based on high ethical values, justice and friendship in order to denounce acts of aggression and to reinforce and promote stability, tranquility and durable peace throughout the world.

56. The Heads of State and Government recognized the valuable contributions of all religions and beliefs to modern civilization and the contribution that dialogue among civilizations can make to an improved awareness and understanding of common values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence as well as non-discrimination on any grounds.

57. The Heads of State and Government recalled the adoption of resolution 72/129 entitled “Moderation” by the UN General Assembly at its 72nd session. They *urged* Member States to continue to undertake initiatives to promote moderation through activities such as outreach programmes and cross-cultural dialogue as well as to promote the value of moderation, including non-violence, mutual respect and understanding, through education.

58. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need for all Member States to further contribute regionally and internationally to the promotion of dialogue, tolerance, mutual respect, understanding and acceptance; and to countering radicalism, extremism and hate speech. They *further recognized* the importance of moderation as an all-encompassing approach and a value within societies to tackle global challenges and threats to international peace and security.

59. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* the need to continue working towards the promotion of dialogue and understanding among all civilizations, cultures and religions and *reaffirmed* their commitment to work together to prevent cultural homogenization and domination or incitement to hatred and discrimination, combat defamation of religions and develop better ways for promoting tolerance, respect for and protection of the freedom of religion and belief, including the right to preserve one's cultural identity. They *stressed* the role the General Assembly and the relevant UN organs can play in that respect in particular through furthering the much-needed dialogue on those important and sensitive issues.

60. The Heads of State and Government recognized the ever-increasing significance and relevance of a culture of living in harmony with nature. They, therefore, *welcomed* the efforts of States to preserve and develop nomadic culture and traditions in modern societies and stressed on adopting lifestyles which are in harmony with environment.

61. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions by UNESCO, signed in 2005, which entered into force on 18 March 2007, as a major contribution to the international community, within the framework of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, its Action Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Heads of State and Government called *upon* United Nations Member States to consider becoming parties to this Convention.

62. The Heads of State and Government *declared* their commitment with the implementation of the provisions included in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and its Action Plan, adopted on 02 November 2001 by the General Conference of UNESCO during its 31st meeting, in which States invited the United Nations System to cooperate with UNESCO in the promotion of the principles enshrined in the UNESCO Universal Declaration and its Action Plan, with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions adopted in favor of cultural diversity.

63. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* their commitment to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, signed in 2003, which entered into force on 20 April 2006, as an important contribution of the international community in favor of the protection of the intangible cultural heritage, to ensure the validity of the cultural manifestations of States, capable of being transmitted from one generation to another, and as an instrument for peace, tolerance, coexistence, respect for human rights and the promotion of the identity and cultural diversity of the peoples.

64. The Heads of State and Government also highlighted the significance of the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage of the world and in this regard took note of the work of the Memory of the World (MoW) Register maintained by UNESCO, including with the archives of the First Summit Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement submitted by Algeria, Egypt, India and Indonesia and was announced in the UNESCO MoW Register on 24 May 2023, to affirm the significance of the documentary heritage, make the documentary heritage better known and allow for greater access to it, thereby facilitating research, education, entertainment, and preservation over time.

65. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* their commitment to enhancing the dialogue among civilizations and religions, through supporting efforts made at the international level towards reducing confrontation, promoting respect for diversity based on justice, fraternity and equality, and *opposed* all attempts of imposing political, economic, social, legal or cultural systems, and *promoted* dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-faith dialogue, which will contribute towards peace, security, stability, sustainable development and promotion of human rights.

66. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* and *expressed* support for the sustained efforts of the NAM Members to highlight the importance of promoting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue at the United Nations as articulated in General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including 72/136, 73/126, 74/23, 75/26, 76/69 and 78/129 entitled "Promotion

of inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace”, jointly co-facilitated by Pakistan and the Philippines. They *further encouraged* Member States to consider, and carry out, activities in support of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), which provides a framework for enhancing inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and promoting tolerance and mutual understanding, as endorsed by UN.

67. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the fruitful efforts of the NAM Members, including the initiatives by the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Indonesia, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Iraq, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the State of Qatar, the Republic of Senegal and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, in exploring the opportunities for co-existence and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations through holding numerous conferences and fora in order to identify and develop strategies and programmes, at the national, regional and international levels, that contribute to rapprochement among religions, cultures and civilizations¹³, including other inter-governmental processes and initiatives.

68. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the importance of promoting interfaith harmony at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard, *welcomed* the initiatives of Member States and the United Nations System to organize activities in consultation with Member States, during the interfaith harmony week between all religions, faiths and beliefs proclaimed by the General Assembly as the first week of February of every year.

69. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the establishment, in Vienna, of the King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz International Center for Inter-religious and Intercultural Dialogue on the basis of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the important role that the Center will play as a permanent platform for the enhancement of inter-religious and intercultural dialogue.

70. Referring to UN General Assembly resolutions 72/136, 73/129, 74/23, 75/26 and 76/69, entitled “Promotion of inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace” and the Secretary-General’s reports A/72/488 (para. 40) and A/74/476 (para. 9), entitled “Promotion of a culture of peace and inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace”, the Heads of State and Government highly valued the input of the “Baku Process” launched in 2008 as a key platform for promoting intercultural dialogue and committed to promote this process within the UN system.

71. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the efforts by the media, including through new platforms, such as the internet and digital social networking, to promote inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, and *encouraged* the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, and *emphasized* that everyone has the right to freedom of

¹³ The conferences, forums and initiatives by the Islamic Republic of Iran to proclaim the year 2001 as “the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations” (53/22) the Republic of Indonesia, inter alia, “Building Interfaith Harmony within the International Community” (2005); by the Kingdom of Morocco, inter alia, the “Rabat Declaration on Encouraging Dialogue among Cultures and Civilizations through Effective and Sustainable Initiatives” (2005), Judeo-Muslim Congress (2005-2006), and the “International Charter to Prevent any Defamation of Religions, Beliefs, Sacred Values and Prophets, while Respecting the Freedom of Expression” (2006); by the Republic of the Philippines, inter alia, the Conference on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace (2005), Informal Summit on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace (2005), Regional Conference of Asian and Pacific Countries on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace (2006), Launching of the Tri-Partite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace (2005); by the State of Qatar, inter alia, the Inter-Faith Dialogue Conference (2006), Alliance of Civilization (2006), US-Islamic World Forum (2006), Conference for Religions Dialogue (2005), Islamic-American Dialogue (2004), Forum on Islam-Christian Dialogue (2003) and Dialogue Among Civilizations and the republic of Senegal, International Conference on Islam Christianity Dialogue held in 2007, and by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on "World Interfaith Harmony Week" (2010), by the Republic of Iraq “Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum” (2022), by the Republic of Azerbaijan, inter alia, the Baku process and, within its framework, the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019), and by the Kingdom of Morocco Ninth United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Global Forum, held in Fez, Morocco, on 22-23 November 2022.

expression, and *reaffirmed* that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals.

72. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government *expressed* their appreciation to the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the internet to promote inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, and acknowledged with appreciation the establishment by the Philippines of the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal pursuant to commitments made during the March 2010 Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development in Manila, the Philippines¹⁴ and *stressed* the importance of enhancing efforts to promote respect for the diversity of religions, beliefs, cultures and societies as contained in its Manila Declaration and Program of Action on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development.

73. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the Tehran Declaration and Programme of Action (TDPA) adopted at the Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 3 and 4 September 2007.

74. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of the Political Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Tehran+10), within the framework of the High-Level Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held on 30 November 2017 in New York, under the theme of "Solidarity, Dialogue and Tolerance in a Diverse World: Towards a Culture of Peace", and *reaffirmed* their commitment to the implementation of the provisions contained therein.

75. The Heads of State and Government expressed the importance of monitoring compliance with the provisions and fulfillment of the commitments included in the NAM Political Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Tehran+10). In this regard, they *urged* the NAM Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity to, through the NAM Chapter in UNESCO, report on a yearly basis on the fulfillment, progress, and challenges faced in implementing the Action Plan.

76. The Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction for the reactivation of the NAM Chapter in UNESCO, and, in that regard, *welcomed* the convening of the meeting held on 12 December 2017 in Paris, in line with the mandate established in the NAM Political Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Tehran+10), as well as the subsequent plenary meetings held on 03 April and 27 September 2018 and 28 March 2019.

77. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the support and assistance provided to the NAM Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (NAMCHRCD) in order to fulfill its goals and objectives, including through the provision of experts on secondment and financial contributions, with a view to ensure the participation of the NAMCHRCD in relevant international forums and events, particularly sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, UN Human Rights Council, and NAM Conferences, as part of ongoing efforts to promote the importance of human rights and cultural diversity. They recognized that such support and assistance will result, among others, in the electronic publication of the "NAM International Journal of Human Rights and Cultural Diversity".

78. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the important role of the NAM Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity in Tehran, and invited Member States of the Movement, particularly the Troika, to consider providing experts and necessary assistance to the NAM Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity in order to enable it to achieve and realize its goals and

¹⁴ The special NAM Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and cooperation for Peace and Development was held in Manila, the Philippines, from 16 to 18 March 2010.

objectives, and to effectively fulfill its mandate on the basis of the purposes and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement.

79. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the important role that the Non-Aligned Movement Center for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity plays in the promotion of human rights and cultural diversity, and *emphasized* that it should continue its efforts to enhance cooperation and dialogue in the field of HRCD, through various means, inter alia, establishing “NAM International Journal of Human Rights and Cultural Diversity” in order to cover the current literature of issues on debate and reflect ongoing global discourses and developments in this regard. In this context, they *stressed* the need to invite the Head of the NAMHRCD to all NAM meetings to present his/her report on the realization of its goals and objectives contained in the Political Declaration and the Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Tehran+10).

79.1 Since art and folklore are strong manifestations of cultural diversity, the NAMCHRCD will coordinate NAM Cultural Week through holding “NAM Annual Art and Folklore Festival” in NAM member states’ capitals in alphabetical rotation and on a voluntary basis in order to introduce the rich and diverse cultural and artistic heritage of NAM nations along history.

79.2 They welcome holding of the “Young Leaders Program” by NAMCHRCD, as a continuous short-term training course for volunteers introduced by NAM member states, in order to promote human rights and cultural diversity.

79.3 Welcome the NAMCHRCD Initiative to run the “NAM Human Rights Award” with a positive and persuasive approach based on the achievements of those NAM member states that have done their best for their national human sustainable development to realize human rights with special focus on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

80. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their appreciation for the convening of the Seminar on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, held on 21 July 2019, in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with the support of the NAM-HRCD Centre, and took note with appreciation of the presentations and interactive dialogue held at that time.

81. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the first High Level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Inter-religious and Intercultural Cooperation for Peace held on 04-05 October 2007, at the joint initiative of Pakistan and Philippines, and the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Inter-Faith Dialogue on the initiative of King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, held on 12-13 November 2008, under agenda item “Culture of Peace”.

82. The Heads of State and Government *noted* with appreciation the Bahrain Declaration adopted at the International Civilizations in the Service of Humanity Conference, held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, from 05-07 May 2014, under the auspices of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain. The meeting commended the conference’s call to bring together humanity within a framework of common values to confront fanaticism, hatred, extremism and terrorism, its aim to create an environment conducive to building human relations, and its call for concerted international action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and islamophobia.

83. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged and commended* the Declaration of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which confirms the Kingdom's commitment towards religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence among nations. The Heads of State and Government also praised the “Bahrain Forum for Dialogue” held in 2022, focused on the theme, “East and West for Human Coexistence”. The Forum was attended by His Holiness Pope Francis, along with the Al Azhar Grand Imam; His Eminence Dr. Ahmed Al Tayyib; and other key religious leaders. This has consolidated the status of the Kingdom of Bahrain as a pioneering country in bringing cultures

together and enriching interaction between people of religions and beliefs around the world. They also noted the role of The King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence in promoting tolerance between peoples and the centre's achievements in the establishment of The King Hamad Chair in Inter-Faith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence Programme at Sapienza Università di Roma and The King Hamad Faith in Leadership Fellowship Programme.

84. The Heads of State and Government *noted* with appreciation the launching of the first EU-Bahrain Conference on freedom of religion and belief, held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, under the auspices of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain, on the theme "Broadening the Tent. Freedom of Religion and Belief" from 31 May-2 June 2022. The meeting commended the conference's call on promoting humanitarian cooperation on the principles of pluralism and diversity to enhance respect for freedom of religion and belief at the regional and global levels.

85. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the World Culture Forum on the Power of Culture in Sustainable Development, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 to 27 November 2013, which enriches the deliberations on the impact of culture on the three dimensions of sustainable development.

86. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, The Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures, among others.

86.1 Emphasize the need to continue strengthening the dialogue among all civilizations, cultures and religions, and culture of peace, inter alia, through the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and World Programme for the Dialogue among Civilizations.

86.2 Oppose all attempts to impose on any State any particular model of political, economic, legal or cultural system, which may lead to global instability and weaken the security of States and their peoples.

86.3 Strive to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization as well as uniculturalism in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural dialogue and exchange guided by enhancing respect for and observance of cultural diversity.

86.4 Promote a culture of peace based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial domination, prevention of violence, promotion of non-violence, strict adherence to the principles of international relations as enshrined in the UN Charter, and full realization of all human rights, including the right to development domestically, while avoiding the impediments to its medium of realization regionally and internationally.

86.5 Take all necessary measures to prevent the use of new platforms, including the internet, digital social networking and mass media, in spreading extremist religious thoughts and ideas, which eventually undermine the culture of peace and religious diversity.

86.6 Promote respect for the diversity of religions, beliefs, and cultures, and for prophets, religious symbols and Personalities, as part of the universal respect for peoples and civilizations and common heritage belonging to humankind.

86.7 Promote the important role of education in the promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, religions and cultures, and the role of civil society, faith-based non-governmental organizations and media, as appropriate, in promoting interfaith, intercultural and inter-civilizational dialogue and understanding towards fostering cultural diversity and the realization of internationally agreed goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

86.8 *Continue to enhance* the efforts of the NAM members in promoting the culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, religions, and cultures, through various activities, including international and regional conferences and fora.

86.9 *Call for* the implementation of the Manila Declaration and Programme of Action on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development adopted by the Special NAM Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development held from 16-18 March 2010 in Manila, Philippines, on the initiative of the Government of the Philippines.

86.10 *Initiate* discussions with a view to elaborating an international instrument on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance, including ways to eliminate defamation of religions, and discrimination based on religion or belief.

86.11 *Contribute* to the implementation of the agreements contained in the Political Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity (Tehran+10) and, in this context, continue to promote a NAM initiative on the subject in the Human Rights Council or the United Nations General Assembly as soon as possible and, in this context, *enhance* the activities of the NAM Centre for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity and *consider* the approval of its charter, and *cooperate* with UNESCO in the promotion of the principles included in its Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and its Plan of Action, with a view to strengthen the synergy of the measures adopted in favor of cultural diversity;

86.12 *Promote* the cooperation between the United Nations and the NAM Centre for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity and *invite* the NAM Centre pending the approval in the Sixth Committee in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer.

86.13 *Recognize* the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other.

87. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of the UNGA Resolution 72/130 of 8 December 2017, as presented by Algeria, which declares 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity, and invite all NAM Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure peace and sustainable development, including by working with communities, faith leaders and other relevant actors, through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals.

88. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 73/1 and the Political Declaration adopted at the historic Mandela Peace Summit, held on 24 September 2018, to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, and which recognized the period from 2019 to 2028 as the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government called upon all Member States to redouble their efforts to pursue international peace and security, development and human rights during said decade. They recalled the Special Declaration of the 18th Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on the Commemoration of the Centenary of the Birth of Nelson Mandela, adopted on 06 April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.

Defamation of Religions

89. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their strong belief in the need to stress moderation of all religions and beliefs and to promote understanding through dialogue within and across religions. In this connection, they are *deeply alarmed* at the rising trends of discriminatory national laws and policies adopted and exercised against any religion, stigmatizing

groups of people on the basis of religions under variety of pretexts relating to security and illegal immigration, particularly people from certain ethnicities and religious minorities following the events of 11 September 2001.

90. The Heads of State and Government, bearing in mind that defamation of religions is being wrongly justified on the ground of the right to freedom of expression, *emphasized* that everyone has the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to freedom of expression, and that exercise of these rights carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to limitations as are provided for by law and are necessary for respect of the rights and reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, public health or morals.

91. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated*, in this regard, the importance of promoting full respect of all religions and cultures among all States, with a view to promoting and ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression while preventing abuses and incitement to religious hatred that could contribute to undermining the ongoing efforts to foster a culture of peace based on mutual respect and tolerance among religions, cultures and civilizations, as provided for in the international human rights instruments to which States are parties.

92. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* grave concern at the negative stereotyping of religions, insults to and defamation of religious personalities, holy books, scriptures and symbols, which impede the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to worship and manifest religion without fear of coercion, violence or reprisal. They *deplored* all acts of ideological and physical violence and assaults, and incitements thereto, against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, and those acts directed against the holy symbols, sites or places of worship of all religions. The Heads of State and Government underlined the need to address these disturbing instances through appropriate measures at the national and international levels, including legal measures, to provide adequate protection against acts of religious hatred that constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence resulting from defamation of religions in conformity with existing instruments of international law. They also *underlined* the unacceptability of any attempt to restrict the freedom of worship by any religious group in any circumstance.

93. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* grave concern at manifestations of intolerance based on religion or belief that can generate hatred and violence among different nations, and, in this regard, *emphasized* the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue, which contribute to promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations.

94. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* grave concern at the increasing incidents of intolerance, discrimination, and acts of violence in the world and reiterating the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures, civilizations for the furtherance of peace and harmony in the world and spreading the values of tolerance and peace to counter and confront hate speech, fanaticism, extremism, violence and incitement; Reiterated the significance of the eight-point Action Plan unanimously agreed upon by UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 as an important step to counter incitement to hatred, discrimination, stigmatization, and violence based on one's religion or belief and calls on all States to review the progress in the implementation of the Action Plan. *Reaffirmed* the essential role of political commitment at the highest level towards the full and effective implementation of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter to promote and encourage universal respect for the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination; to address the issue of intolerance and incitement to hatred and violence on religious grounds and to take the necessary legislative actions to criminalize such attacks, cognizant of the fact the exercise of freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities; to protect all individuals against hate and violence based on religion and faith to ensure the protection of places of worship in accordance with international law, norms and standards.

95. *Condemned* in the strongest terms, the recent despicable aggression against the sanctity of the Holy Quran in the Kingdom of Sweden, on the first day of Eid al-Adha, 1444, outside the central mosque in the capital city of Stockholm; deplored the recurrence of acts of desecration of the copies of the Holy Quran, and deeply regretted the issuance by the authorities of a permit allowing that action to occur.

96. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the declaration of the Forum on “the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement that could lead to atrocity crimes” held in Fez, Morocco, on 23 and 24 April 2015 which builds on the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, initiated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and adopted in Rabat Kingdom of Morocco, in October 2012, and also *noted* the follow-up steps aiming at promoting its provisions, including the Rabat Declaration+5 Conference held in Rabat in December 2017.

97. The Heads of State and Government also *expressed* grave concern at programs and agendas pursued by extremist organizations and groups aimed at creating and perpetuating negative stereotypes about religious groups, in particular when condoned by Governments; and, in this regard, the Heads of State and Government *condemned* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audio-visual or electronic media or any other means, including the internet and digital social networking.

98. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the recent Outcome Document adopted at the Fifth Anniversary of the Fez Plan of Action, held in Fez, Kingdom of Morocco, on 20-21 July 2022, providing the way forward on the implementation of thereof.

99. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious leaders and bodies, educational institutions and the media, including through the internet and digital social networking, have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion or belief; also they *noted with appreciation* the publication, in 2015, of the “Declaration on the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement that could lead to atrocity crimes” and the subsequent “Fes Plan of Action” in 2017 reaffirming the importance of the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement to violence.

100. The Heads of State and Government strongly *encouraged* initiatives by the media and all actors in society, including non-governmental organizations, bodies and groups based on religion or belief, where relevant, to promote tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of religion or belief.

101. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* the important role of education in the promotion of tolerance and the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on religion or belief.

102. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the Second Baku Summit of World Religious Leaders, held on 14-15 November 2019 in Baku, which re-emphasized the role of the religious leaders in promoting multiculturalism, tolerance and inter-religious solidarity, and took note of its Baku Declaration.

Right to Self-Determination and Decolonization

103. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination, as follows:

103.1 The Movement *stressed* the fundamental and inalienable right of all peoples, in particular all non-self-governing territories, as well as those territories under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination to self-determination, the exercise of which, in the case of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination, remains valid and essential to ensure the eradication of all these situations and to guarantee universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

103.2 The Movement *reaffirmed* the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence on the basis of General Assembly resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960, and *expressed* its unwavering support to the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the UN Special Committee on Decolonization; and *called for* their immediate implementation. Likewise, the Movement *noted with satisfaction* the commutation in 2017 of the sentences of the Puerto Rican political prisoner, Oscar López Rivera, who served over thirty-five years in prison for reasons related to his fight for the independence of Puerto Rico.

103.3 The Movement *remained concerned* at the loss, destruction, removal, theft, pillage, illicit movement or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism or damage, directed against cultural property in areas of armed conflict and territories that are occupied.

104. Recalling the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the General Assembly resolution 75/123 declaring the period 2021-2030 as the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and called to speed up the process of decolonization towards the complete elimination of colonialism in this decade.

105. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and affirming the need to preserve, defend, and promote these positions, the Heads of State and Government *agreed* to undertake the following measures, among others:

105.1 Strongly support the work and activities of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization, underlining the necessity of reinforcing the importance of its decisions and again *urge* the Administering Powers to grant their full support to the activities of the Committee and fully cooperate with this UN body.

105.2 Request the colonialist countries to pay full compensation for the economic, social and cultural consequences of their occupation, bearing in mind the right of all people who were or are still subjected to colonial rule or occupation to receive fair compensation for the human and material losses they suffered as a result of colonial rule or occupation.

105.3 Strongly condemn the ongoing brutal suppression of the legitimate aspirations to self-determination of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation in various regions of the world;

105.4 Urge UN Member States to fully implement the decisions and resolutions of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) concerning the return of cultural properties to the peoples who were or still are under colonial rule or occupation, and in this regard, *further urge* UNESCO to identify the stolen or illegally exported cultural properties in accordance with the relevant conventions on the subject, and *also urge* the process of returning these properties to their countries of origin, in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, to be expedited, bearing in mind the right of the Non-Aligned Countries to maintain and conserve their national heritage as it constitutes the foundation of their cultural identity;

105.5 Renew its call to UN Member States to speed up the process of decolonization towards the complete elimination of colonialism, including by supporting the effective implementation of the Plan of Action of the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2021-2030);

105.6 The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the 2009 suspension of the Constitution Order of the Turks and Caicos Islands, which abolished the democratically elected House of Assembly and the Cabinet, and the subsequent institution of direct rule exercised by the administering power for a period of three years. They *took note* of the provision of a new Constitution Order in 2012 providing for reduced political power to the elected government than previously maintained, and also *took note* of the subsequent election held in the territory in 2012. The Heads of State and Government noted the continuing debate on constitutional reform within the Territory and stressed the importance of participation by all groups and interested parties in the consultation process and, in this regard, further *stressed* the importance of having in place in the Territory a constitution that reflects the aspirations and wishes of its people, based on the mechanisms for popular consultation.

105.7 *Work* towards the full implementation of the principle of self-determination with respect to the remaining territories within the framework of the Programme of Action of the Special Committee on Decolonization, on a case by case basis, and in accordance with the wishes of the people consistent with the UN Charter and the relevant UN resolutions;¹⁵

105.8 *Oppose* any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a State, which is incompatible with the UN Charter;

105.9 *Call on* the Government of the United States to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

105.10 *Expressed their concern* that the present political subordination of the Puerto Rican people impedes their sovereign decision-making regarding their serious economic and social problems, including the present fiscal crisis, insolvency of the government of Puerto Rico, and the need to restructure the public debt, as well as regarding the humanitarian crisis resulting from the effects of hurricanes Irma and Maria, which has aggravated the already serious economic and social problems, resulting in a rise in poverty levels in Puerto Rico from 45% to around a 60% of the population, which has caused massive migration and has seriously impaired efforts to achieve a sustainable economic development; takes note with concern of the institutional crisis of the colonial government of Puerto Rico, which the administering power is using as an excuse to restrain the release of the essential economic aid for the recuperation and reconstruction of the devastation caused by the hurricane.

105.11 *Expressed* their concern with legislation *adopted* in the US Congress to impose a fiscal control board over the government of Puerto Rico which will effectively infringe upon the limited power of the government of Puerto Rico over its budget and fiscal and other affairs.

105.12 *Urges* the government of the United States to return the occupied land and facilities on Vieques Island and at the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station to the Puerto Rican people, who constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation.

105.13 *Work* actively to have the UN General Assembly to consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects.

105.14 The Heads of State and Government *affirmed* the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia- Ma'ohi Nui to self-determination, in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and the UN General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

¹⁵ The relevant UN resolutions include General Assembly resolution 65/119, which proclaims 2011 to 2020 decade as the Third Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

105.15 The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the outcome of the referendum on self-determination in New Caledonia held at the end of 2018, in accordance with the Noumea Accord.

105.16 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* and *supported* the Pacific Regional Seminar on Decolonization held in Denarau, Nadi, Fiji, from 21 to 23 May 2014 of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the commitment and efforts of the Chair of the Committee to implement its decisions during the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

105.17 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* and *supported* the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization held in Managua, Nicaragua from 19-21 of May 2015 of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the commitment and efforts of the Government of Nicaragua in contributing towards the successful implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

105.18 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* and *supported* the Pacific-Regional Seminar of the Special Committee on Decolonization, on the theme "Implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Commitments and Actions for Decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories", which for the second time in a row was generously hosted by Nicaragua from the 31 May to the 02 June 2016, showing once again the Commitment and efforts of the Government of Nicaragua in contributing towards the successful implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

105.19 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* and *supported* the Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, from 16-18 May 2017, of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the commitment and efforts of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in contributing towards the successful implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

105.20 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* and *supported* both the 2018 and 2019 Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, held in Grenada. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the commitment and efforts of the Government of Grenada in contributing towards the successful implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

105.21 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the 2022 Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, held in Saint Lucia. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the commitment and efforts of the Government of Saint Lucia towards the successful implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

105.22 The Heads of State and Government *appreciated* the commitment and efforts of the Chair of the Committee to implement its decisions during the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

105.23 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the 2023 Pacific Regional Seminar on Decolonization of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, held in Bali, Republic of Indonesia. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the commitment and efforts of the Government of Indonesia towards the successful implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

105.24 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the offer of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, pending finalization of relevant procedures within C-24, to host the 2024 Caribbean Regional Seminar on Decolonization of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in line with its commitments and efforts towards the successful implementation of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

United Nations: Follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Millennium Declaration and the Outcomes of the Major United Nations Summits and Conferences

106. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that the UN Charter provides a balance among the purposes and principles of the Organization that encompass all pertinent issues, including economic and social development, peace and security, and human rights and rule of law. In this regard, the Millennium Declaration (New York, September 2000), the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995), the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcome of the 2010 High Level Plenary Meeting on MDGs, the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “Future We Want” of 2012, the outcome of the third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai, 13-18 March 2015), the United Nations General Assembly’s resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Ethiopia, 13-16 July 2015), the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC (December 2015)¹⁶, the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), (Ecuador, 17-20 October 2016), and the second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, 20-22 March 2019), provide the twenty-first century perspective of that balance. They further reaffirmed that the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges faced by all States in these areas are inter-connected and that these could be addressed by acting at a sufficiently early stage with the full range of available peaceful means as envisaged in the UN Charter and in a manner that would ensure the preservation of its purposes and principles, the intergovernmental character of the Organization and the required balance among its principal organs, as well as the neutrality and impartiality of its undertakings in these areas.

107. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The Future We Want” which emphasizes the need to attain sustainable development in addressing economic, social and environmental aspects in a coherent and balanced manner. The Heads of State and Government stated that despite the efforts by developing countries, there are persistent implementation gaps, and many unfulfilled commitments for achieving sustainable development due to the lack of political will by developed countries in the provision of, inter alia, new and additional financial resources, transfer of technology, including modern and environmentally sound technologies, technical cooperation, and capacity building to developing countries. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the reaffirmation of the Rio Principles in particular the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, nevertheless expressed disappointment at the lack of meaningful participation and support of developed countries towards sustainable development and the overriding priority of poverty eradication, and *stressed* that there are serious threats to the achievement of

¹⁶ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

sustainable development, inclusive economic growth and development and internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs.

108. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the critical importance of the full and timely implementation by developed countries of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, of the third international conference on Financing for development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13-16 July 2015. They *called upon* developed countries to fulfill their commitments to provide, mobilize and transfer financial and non-financial resources as agreed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the creation of an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels, in a spirit of global partnership and solidarity.

109. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the successful convening and the outcome of the Commemorative Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77+China, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on 14 and 15 June 2014 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the G77. They *reiterated* their appreciation to the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for hosting the Summit and reaffirmed their commitment to work towards the full implementation of the Declaration entitled "For a New World Order for Living Well".

110. The Heads of State and Government *commended* the successful chairing of the Group of 77 and China by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of South Africa, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Ecuador, the Arab Republic of Egypt, State of Palestine, Guyana, Guinea, Pakistan and Cuba during 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

111. The Heads of State and Government *congratulated* the Republic of Cuba for the successful and productive Chairmanship of the Group of the 77 and China during 2023, and for the initiatives presented and its steadfast commitment to promote, during its mandate, the effective unity, cooperation and coordination among the members of the Group.

112. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Cuba for the successful hosting of the Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China held in Havana, Cuba on the 15th and 16th of September 2023 under the theme "Current development challenges: role of science, technology and innovation". They *reaffirmed* their support to the full implementation of the Final Declaration of the Summit, an action oriented document that underpins the core position of the South on the development agenda.

113. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* on the high significance of convening the Third South Summit, and in this regard, commended the offer made by the Government of Uganda to host the Third South Summit in Kampala from 21-22 January 2024.

114. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need to bring more synergies and strengthen coordination between the G-77 and the NAM in order to strengthen the role of developing countries in international economic, trade and financial affairs. They also reaffirmed their commitment to work towards the coordination and cooperation between both groupings, wherever possible, to address issues of common concern to them, subject to their respective competencies.

115. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their disappointment at the lack of implementation by developed countries of many of their commitments, especially with regard to official development assistance as well as the implementation of the SDG17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They stressed the need to scale up the global partnership to provide and mobilize the resources urgently needed for the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for achieving the sustainable development goals. In this regard, they *emphasized* the crucial role of a renewed global partnership for development to end poverty in all its forms and

dimensions on the path of sustainable development in support of national development strategies and policies.

116. The Heads of State and Government drew particular attention to the importance of the fulfillment, without further delay, of all Official Development Assistance commitments, including the commitments by some developed countries to achieve the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product for Official Development Assistance to developing countries, as well as a target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government further *urged* the developed countries to take all necessary and appropriate measures to raise the rate of aid disbursements to meet their existing commitments so as to reach their agreed timetables, in order to assist developing countries to meet the SDGs targets and Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADG). They took note of the role of the relevant platforms in this regard, including the ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, to continue to review trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development.

117. The Heads of State and Government recognized that South-South and triangular cooperation contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving the overarching goal of eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as it shares the comprehensive vision of development contained in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, that balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – the economic, social and environmental. They also stressed that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. They also recognized the need for regular ministerial meetings/interactions to exchange views on critical issues of the Global South, discuss opportunities and challenges, explore potentials of cooperation, articulate likely solutions and share lessons learned on the common priorities of development in the countries of the Global South.

118. The Heads of State and Government underscored the central role of the global partnership for development and the importance of providing the necessary means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for its implementation at the national level through national development plans and programs. The Heads of State and Government called *on* the international community to intensify its efforts to provide enhanced means of implementation to the developing countries through a strengthened global partnership in the collective quest to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

119. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their *concern* over the lack of and/or uneven progress made by least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and African countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situation, as well as specific challenges faced by the middle income countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals including the Sustainable Development Goals, and in this regard *reiterated* the importance of strengthening global partnerships in the follow-up to and implementation of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031, adopted in the First part of the Fifth United Nations LDCs Conference held on 17 March 2022 in New York and on 5 – 9 March 2023 in Doha, Qatar, respectively, and the Vienna Programme of Action, adopted at the Second UN conference on Landlocked Developing Countries: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities Of Action [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway, adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in September 2014, as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063 and its first ten-year implementation plan. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government look forward to the holding of the Third United Nations Conference on LLDCs in Rwanda from 18-21 June 2024 and 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Antigua and Barbuda from 27-30 May 2024.

120. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that economic, social, and environmental development are the centerpiece of the objectives and operational activities of the UN. They also recognized that execution of the Right to Development, the achievement of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADG), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and accomplishment of the commitments by developed countries based on the principles of CBDR and equity, should be the relevant framework of the development activities of the UN system and other relevant international organizations.

121. The Heads of State and Government, in this context, *underlined* the insufficient and uneven progress achieved in the full and effective implementation of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of securing the effective and full implementation of the agreed development goals and commitments, including the strengthening of the global partnership for sustainable development, based on the recognition of national ownership and development strategies. They further *emphasized* that poverty eradication and sustainable development must be the highest priority of the United Nations Development Agenda.

122. The Heads of State and Government also stressed the important role of the United Nations in addressing issues concerning international trade and development, as well as the persistent systemic inequities in international economic relations, in particular the slow progress in enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in decision making in the International Financial Institutions, which are to the detriment of developing countries. In this regard, they *emphasized* the need for a comprehensive and structural reform of the global financial and economic governance and architecture in order to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system that strengthens and broadens the participation of developing countries in international economic decision making and norm setting. In that context, they also underscored the need to strengthen and implement the development dimension in the series of international economic, financial and trade negotiations. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* the call for the international community, the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and international organizations and institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to translate all commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the economic, social and related fields into concrete and specific actions in order to, inter alia, achieve the internationally agreed development goals within the agreed timeframes, and calls for the efficient use of monitoring and follow-up mechanisms to ensure that these commitments and actions are effectively implemented.

123. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the, agreed upon by the international community, and resolves to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, poverty and hunger eradication and sustainable development.

124. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return and recovery as one of the sources of financing for development with a view to promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth. They reaffirmed their commitment to strive to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows. In addition, they called for waiving or reducing to the barest minimum the processes and costs of the recovery of assets.

125. The Heads of State and Government stressed that sub-regional, regional, interregional and international cooperation plays an important role in helping developing countries to integrate into the global economy and to achieve their development objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in promoting the global partnership for sustainable development. The Heads of State and Government also *recognized* the need to enhance synergies and

complementarities among regional, sub-regional and interregional cooperation processes and emphasized the role that the United Nations as well as other relevant international institutions can play in supporting such cooperation.

126. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, which aims at supporting national plans and strategies in health matters, in order to significantly reduce the number of maternal, new born and under-five child deaths as a matter of immediate concern by scaling up a priority package of high-impact interventions, so as to reduce maternal and child mortality in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 3, and also *welcomed* the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the SDGs, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation.

127. The Heads of State and Government recalled the adoption of the Declaration on the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations and reiterated the commitment to "mobilize resources, strengthen efforts and show unprecedented political will and leadership to achieve the future we want". In this regard, the Heads of State and Government also noted the decision of the UN General Assembly to host the Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow, in September, 2024.

128. Consistent with, and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and affirming the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to continue to undertake the following measures, among others:

128.1 Actively engage in the follow-up process and the implementation of the commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the international development goals agreed at the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in a manner that would advance the principled positions of the Movement towards the issues under consideration;

128.2 Call for international support to *strengthen* South-South cooperation, which complements, and does not substitute, North-South cooperation, including regional, inter-regional, as well as triangular cooperation initiatives, and in this context, the Heads of State and Government *recalled* the 2009 High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi, Kenya, and the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, 20-22 March 2019) and called for further implementation of the Nairobi and Buenos Aires outcome documents in close coordination and collaboration with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, and in keeping with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

128.3 Call for continuous international support and commitment for the conclusion of development-oriented negotiations of the Doha Round to strengthen the multilateral trading system and reaffirm their commitment to the WTO as the preeminent global forum for trade, including negotiating and implementing trade rules, settling disputes and supporting development through the integration of developing countries into the global trading system and, in this regard, they emphasized the importance of facilitating the accession of developing countries to the WTO.

128.4 Reiterate the importance of a strong, meaningful and effective intergovernmental inclusive mechanism under the UN system, in order to provide for adequate follow up of the implementation of the mandates agreed to in Monterrey, in Doha and in Addis Ababa, regarding Financing for Development and reiterated their support to the High Level Political Forum to achieve its functions in following up and reviewing the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including its Means of Implementation.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

129. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the interlinkages and integrated nature of the SDGs and need to maintain their integrity and *noted* that eight years have passed since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the September 2023 SDG Summit will mark the midway point and will review the implementation of the Agenda. They acknowledged that the pace of implementation is still quite distant from achieving sustainable development for all, in particular for the poorest and most vulnerable; compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and recent geopolitical tensions; aggravated by the social and economic effects of COVID-19 and the current multiple crises which have disproportionately impacted the recovery efforts of developing countries and reversed development gains of at least a decade. They reiterated the continued unwavering commitment of NAM to further translating ambitions set out in the Agenda into real actions. Further support is needed from developed countries, especially regarding the transfer of technology, capacity building and financing to developing countries.

130. The Heads of State and Government also *reiterated* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reaffirms all the principles of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. They further reaffirmed that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be guided by the principles in accordance with paragraph 74 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

131. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, where no one is left behind, which also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom, and further *recognized* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. They *emphasized* that the Sustainable Development Goals are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development -economic, social and environmental-, without emphasizing one over the other, and that even though progress has been made, the pace of implementation must be accelerated as the tasks to face are urgent.

132. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the progress made by Member States in their national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but stressed that implementing it at all levels requires a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, which can only be fully achieved if supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the full implementation of SDG 17. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the convening of the SDG Summit held on 18 – 19 September 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, which was called to emphasize the leaders' political will, at the highest level, to implement the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in their entirety, and focus on their immediate implementation, while also addressing the current gaps and challenges. In this context, enhancing support to developing countries is fundamental, including through provision of development financial resources, transfer of technology on favourable terms including on concessional and preferential terms, technical cooperation, enhanced international support and targeted capacity-building and promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization. They urged the international community and relevant stakeholders to make real progress in these issues, including developing action plans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

133. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the Unilateral Coercive Measures and the unilateral sanction regimes imposed against developing countries as obstacles that prevent the member states to implement their national development policies and plans including the Sustainable Development Goals. They condemned the UCMS as the acts that are contrary to and in violation of the UN Charter and international law. They reiterated their determination to act in their denial.

134. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 78/135 on “Unilateral Economic Measures as a Means of Political and Economic Coercion against Developing Countries”, particularly the request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to monitor, with the support and cooperation of the resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, the impact of unilateral coercive measures on affected countries, including the impact on trade and development. In this regard, they also *welcomed* the launch of a uniform and universal tool, as elaborated by the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights, for the purpose of monitoring and assessing the impact of unilateral coercive measures and over compliance on human rights, as well as on the economic and social development of developing countries targeted by these measures and on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

135. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the crucial importance of partnership for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and called for coordination and sharing of experience among nations that can boost the capacity of countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, they recalled with appreciation the regional SDG coordination leaders-fora “Building a Partnership to Underpin National Sustainable Development Solutions” held in Minsk, Belarus, in February 2018, and the Sixth Forum of the Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 2023, and the ninth session of the African regional forum on sustainable development, held in Niamey, Niger from 28 February to 2 March 2023.

136. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, further reaffirmed the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity and emphasized that further support is needed from developed countries, especially regarding the transfer of technology, capacity building, and financing to developing countries. Therefore, they *recognized* that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is critical for the realization of the SDGs and their targets. The Heads of State and Government also look forward to the deliberations on the convening of a IV International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025.

137. The Heads of State and Government noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should also be implemented consistent with existing obligations of all UN Members States, in order to ensure that it addresses inequalities and discrimination as its central defining feature. Given the reality of countries being at different levels of development, underpinned by the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), they cautioned that the successful implementation of the SDGs will be largely uneven and progress hampered by such challenges.

138. The Heads of State and Government recalled that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted at a time of immense challenges to sustainable development. Billions of our citizens continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity. There are rising inequalities within and among countries. There are enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power. Gender inequality and empowerment of women remains a key challenge. Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is a major concern, especially in Africa.

139. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the initiative led by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia that was launched during the High Level Week of the General Assembly of 2019, which aims to meet the energy needs of the world's population and which is committed to sharing experiences and best practices by strengthening south-south cooperation and transferring existing practices from the most advanced countries in the south to the least developed ones (LDCs and ODCs).

140. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the holding of the 2019-2023 Climate Action Summits by the UN Secretary-General, and noted the multi-partners' initiatives and commitments presented during the Summits.

14.1 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of the inclusion of youth in the process of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs, and National Development Policies. In this regard, they *recognized* the King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals which was launched during the ECOSOC Youth Forum in January 2017 as a global award and one of a set of pioneering initiatives in the field of youth empowerment and skills development by the Kingdom of Bahrain. This award is open to all youth around the world, as it will aim to empower young people and give them the attention, encouragement and motivation needed. It will also encourage all eligible participants to improve the enabling environment and infrastructure for youth to allow them to be effective and productive citizens contributing to their communities. In cooperation with the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Youth, and the United Nations Development Programme, the award has been granted in the following four categories Government sector, Private sector, Non-profit organizations, and Individuals successfully for the last five years, with its fourth edition in 2022, and the fifth edition accepting participation in the second half of 2023.

142. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the organization of the first-ever NAM Youth Summit on 24-25 October 2019 on the margins of the NAM Baku Summit initiated by the Republic of Azerbaijan and *supported* the establishment of a NAM Youth Network which has enabled the youth representatives of NAM Member States to exchange ideas, visions and perspectives on current challenges that they face in ensuring sustainable progress and how these difficulties could be overcome through concerted and adequate responses of their States. The Heads of State and Government noted the convening of the second NAM Youth Summit held in Azerbaijan on July 25-29, 2022 and took positive note of its forward-looking outcome. They also *welcomed* the inauguration of the headquarters of the NAM Youth Organization with the participation of the NAM Troika Foreign Ministers on the margins of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of NAM held in Baku, Azerbaijan on July 5-6, 2023.

143. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the hosting of the four editions of the World Youth Forum, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2017, November 2018, December 2019 and January 2022.

United Nations: Institutional Reform

A. Reform of the United Nations

144. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed *and underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the institutional reform of the UN, as follows:

144.1 The UN remains the central and indispensable forum for addressing issues relating to international cooperation for economic development and social progress, peace and security, peaceful settlement of disputes, human rights and the rule of law, based on dialogue, cooperation and consensus-building amongst States. In this context, the Movement attaches great importance to the strengthening of the role of the UN and *stresses* that efforts should be made to develop its full potential;

144.2 The purpose of reform is to maintain the central role of the United Nations in development, through making the UN development system more responsive, efficient and effective in its support to developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, on the basis of their national development strategies, and that reform efforts should enhance organizational efficiency and achieve concrete development results by emphasizing the need of closing the gap between developed and developing countries, reflecting a vision of sustainable development and prioritizing the needs of developing countries. It should also enhance

cooperation benefiting all in international relations and global partnerships and reaffirm the commitment set out in the Rio+20 outcome document toward a world that is just, equitable, inclusive and prosperous, as well as the commitment set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

144.3 The reform of the UN, which remains a collective agenda and high priority for the Movement, is a dynamic and ongoing process and not an end in itself in accordance with the parameters for the objective and scope of the review exercise set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reform of the UN must be comprehensive, transparent, inclusive and balanced, and pursued in an effective and accountable manner, fully respecting the political nature of the Organization as well as its intergovernmental, universal and democratic character, consistent with the Charter. In this context, the voice of every Member State must be heard and respected during the reform process irrespective of the contributions made to the budget of the Organization, while *stressing* that any reform measures should be decided by Member States through an intergovernmental process in accordance with the Charter;

144.4 In this context, the Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of resolution 39C/20, which incorporates the recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on the governance, procedures and working methods of UNESCO's governing bodies (38C/101), which contributes to the global, holistic and comprehensive reform of UNESCO, particularly its governing bodies, in order to ensure greater efficiency and transparency in the management of the Organization and the decision-making process;

144.5 In this regard, the Heads of State and Government underlined that all reform proposals must be considered in a comprehensive and integrated manner. Thus, they stressed the need to adopt a coherent approach in the negotiations in order not to hamper the decision-making process that could have a negative impact on the effective functioning of the organization;

144.6 The Heads of State and Government stressed the central role of the United Nations in Global Governance and that it could only be achieved through strictly observing the delicate balance in the Charter between the principal organs of the United Nations, revitalizing the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and the reform of the Security Council, including its adequate expansion, democratization, improving its transparency, accountability and working methods;

144.7 The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need for the payment of assessed contributions by major contributors, which is critical to the financial stability of the Organization, to be made timely, in full and without conditions so as to enable the UN to carry out its mandates effectively. A reformed UN must be responsive to the entire membership, faithful to its founding principles and capable of carrying out its mandate;

144.8 The impact of the UN reform on developing countries is yet to be felt given the continuous decline in the resources made available to the UN as a whole, and in particular for multilateral development cooperation. The Heads of State and Government underscored the need for a substantially larger allocation and better use of resources to strengthen the development pillar of the United Nations, which includes the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, Regional Commissions and the Development Account. In this context, the Heads of State and Government expressed particular concern at the fact that the current system of financing of the UN Development System (UNDS) has failed to work and stressed the need to address the perennial issue of the funding mechanism for the UNDS, as a matter of priority, in order to provide a predictable and sustainable funding. The success of UN reform can only be judged in terms of a collective assessment of the potential improvements in the functioning of the Organization while preserving the interests of all developing countries and the quality and efficiency of the services provided to all member states. In this context, UN reform shall be strictly

approved by the General Assembly and its ultimate goal shall not be to cut the UN budget and resources. Should reforms however release part of existing resources, such resources shall be ultimately redirected to support activities and programmes related to international cooperation for development;

144.9 The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for the implementation of sustainable development commitments and that it has a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in line with existing mandates;

144.10 The objectives of the UN reform, which should include the revitalization and strengthening of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC as well as reforming the Security Council and other relevant UN bodies while addressing at the same time the systemic issues which may arise as a result, are:

- (a) to *strengthen* multilateralism and the inclusive multilateral decision-making process, *providing* the UN with a substantive capacity to fully and effectively meet the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter, and at *consolidating* its democratic and inter-governmental character and its transparency in the discussion and implementation of decisions by Member States;
- (b) to *strengthen and update* the role of the Organization, as the pre-eminent and indispensable forum, by developing its full potential in addressing threats and challenges to economic development and social progress, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law which could be achieved through the implementation of all of its mandates, decisions and resolutions, bearing in mind that a stronger UN that responds more effectively to their collective needs is in their common interest;
- (c) to *promote* greater democracy, effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, non-selectivity, inclusiveness, impartiality and accountability, national ownership, as well as fair and adequate representation of women, regional groups and developing countries within the UN system;
- (d) to *strengthen* the role of the Organization in promoting international cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security;
- (e) to strengthen the role of the Organization in promoting international development and in implementing the internationally-agreed development goals, in the economic, social and related fields, including the Sustainable Development Goals, through the provision of adequate resources and effective follow-up mechanisms. In this context, any UN reform proposal should also address systemic issues and requirement for additional human and financial resources that may arise as a result; and
- (f) to *mainstream* the development dimension within the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the economic sectors of the UN system, including in the areas of sustainable development, policy space, South-South cooperation social and environmental responsibility and accountability, bearing in mind the aim of enabling the full participation of peoples from the South in the international decision and rule-making economic processes, and ensuring their access to and full enjoyment of the benefits of the international economy.

144.11 In acknowledging the interconnectedness of economic development, social development and environmental protection, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law, efforts should be made to ensure that any effort to transform the UN into

a more effective instrument for preventing conflict should take into account the need for a balanced coherent and comprehensive approach in countries facing humanitarian emergencies and in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, in accordance with its Charter and international law, in order to enhance conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict peace-building strategies with the aim of achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development. In this context, it is critical that all principal organs of the UN play an active role in evolving and implementing a more effective collective security system, in accordance with their respective functions and powers;

144.12 It is indispensable for UN Member States to develop common perceptions and agreed approaches to address existing, new and emerging threats and challenges to international peace and security as well as the root causes of conflict. Such common perceptions and approaches to collective security would only be legitimate if they are developed in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and by all Member States acting together. The active participation of each and every principal organ of the UN is crucial, acting both in the exercise of its respective functions and powers, without upsetting the balance as established by the Charter thereof;

144.13 Efforts to strengthen the contribution of civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to the work of the UN and its bodies through the established consultative arrangements should continue to be pursued, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and should serve the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Such contribution should seek, *inter alia*, to address in particular the obstacles that developing countries are experiencing in mobilizing the resources and in obtaining the technology and capability needed to implement their sustainable development programmes;

144.14 The Heads of State and Government reiterated the Movement's principled position regarding the review of mandates of the United Nations programme and activities, as contained in the Final Document of the 14th NAM Summit in Havana, as well as the joint letter, dated 3 January 2007, signed by the Chairs of NAM and the Group of 77 and China, issued as an official document of the United Nations (A/61/693); and

144.15 The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the conclusion of the mandate review process and took note of resolution 62/278, in particular, paragraph 4 by which the General Assembly called upon its relevant bodies and subsidiary organs, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the established regulations and rules governing programme planning, to continue improving the implementation of mandates and addressing the continuing validity of legislative decisions and the effective coordination among units of the Secretariat and other structures of the United Nations system.

145 The Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction over the high level of coordination and activism reached by the JCC, between NAM and G-77 and China, in following up various aspects of the UN reform, which has placed them as key players, also contributing to the advancement of the interests of the developing countries, and called in this regard for further cooperation and coordination, including through the JCC in related areas of common concern.

146. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to continue to pursue the following measures:

146.1 Promote the concerns and interests of developing countries, in the reform process, ensure its successful outcome, and *promote and preserve* the integrity and respective functions and powers of the General Assembly, the ECOSOC, and the Security Council as defined in the Charter;

146.2 Oppose proposals that seek; (a) to transform the democratic and intergovernmental *nature* of the UN as well as its oversight and monitoring processes including any proposal that seeks to undermine the role of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, as the main committee for administrative and budgetary issues; (b) to impose an artificial cap on budget levels; (c) to fund more activities from within the existing pool of resources; or (d) to redefine the Charter-based functions and powers of its principal organs on budgetary related issues;

146.3 Engage constructively in consultations and work, in particular through ensuring the implementation of the relevant UN decisions and resolutions thereof: (a) revitalizing the work of the General Assembly, in view of its central role and position as the chief deliberative, policy making and representative organ of the UN; (b) strengthening the role of the ECOSOC as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, and monitoring the implementation of development programmes; (c) democratization and comprehensive reform of the Security Council as an effective forum in the maintenance of international peace and security by expanding it to include greater representation of developing countries, proportionate to the increase in number of developing countries in the General Assembly, and in keeping with the principle of sovereign equality of states; and (d) reforming the Secretariat and its management in order to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of all mandates and to provide the highest level of accountability and transparency, at all levels, within the Secretariat and from the Secretariat to Member States through the establishment of a clear and implementable accountability framework;

146.4 Enhance the global partnership for development that is necessary to fully realize the outcomes of all major UN summits and conferences in the economic, social and related fields with the view to addressing multiple global threats and challenges in these areas;

146.5 Oppose the tendency to equate reform of the UN with greater empowerment of the Security Council, mindful of the need to keep the balance among the functions and powers of the principal organs of the UN;

146.6 Ensure that the UN is provided with sufficient resources and on a timely and unconditional basis needed to fully implement all mandated programmes and activities, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, including evolving a mechanism to monitor their effective implementation;

146.7 Promote, in close cooperation with the Group of 77 and China, the allocations of additional resources to further strengthen the development pillar as well as peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations of the United Nations;

146.8 Maintain close inter-governmental oversight and review of all proposals, which are yet to be considered and acted *upon* by the General Assembly, as well as those, which are being implemented; and

146.9 Preserve the unity of purpose and action achieved by NAM and the G-77 and China through the JCC, including in other UN headquarters in following up on the various aspects of the UN reform in order for the interests *and* concerns of developing countries to be adequately reflected in the final outcome of this process.

147. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the report of the Secretary-General, *expressed* their support to the vision for reforming the peace and security pillar, and *look forward* to the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on his peace and security pillar reform proposal.

148. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, through an intergovernmental process, co-facilitated by Egypt and Guyana, that led to the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 76/306.

B. Relationship among the Principal Organs of the United Nations

149. The Heads of State and Government underscored the need for UN Member States to fully respect the functions and powers of each principal organ of the UN, in particular the General Assembly, and to maintain the balance among these organs within their respective Charter-based functions and powers. They *stressed* that the Security Council must fully observe all Charter provisions as well as all General Assembly resolutions, which clarify its relationship with the latter organ and other principal organs. In this context, they *affirmed* that Article 24 of the Charter does not necessarily provide the Security Council with the competence to address issues which fall within the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, including in the areas of norm-setting, legislation, administrative and budgetary matters, and establishing definitions, bearing in mind that the Assembly is primarily tasked with the progressive development of international law and its codification.¹⁷ The Heads of State and Government reiterated their grave concern over the increasing and continuing encroachment by the Security Council on issues which clearly fall within the functions and powers of other principal organs of the UN and their subsidiary bodies. They *further stressed* that close cooperation and coordination among all principal organs is highly indispensable in order to enable the UN to remain relevant and capable of meeting the existing, new and emerging threats and challenges.

150. The Heads of State and Government stressed that while Member States have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security pursuant to Article 24 (1) of the UN Charter and in carrying out its duties under this responsibility, the Council acts on their behalf. In this context, they *further stressed* that the Council should report and be accountable to the General Assembly in accordance with Article 24 (3) of the Charter.

151. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their concern over the continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council through addressing issues which traditionally fall within the competence of the latter organs, and the attempts to enter areas of norm-setting, administrative and budgetary matters and establishing definitions which fall within the purview of the Assembly. They further *expressed* concern over the constant attempts by the Security Council to use some thematic issues under its consideration, including those related to human rights to expand its mandate into areas which do not pose a threat to international peace and security, and further urged the Council to confine to its mandate in accordance with the Charter provisions.

152. They *reaffirmed* that all organs and bodies of the United Nations should only carry out those tasks which are established in their respective mandates. In that regard, they *reiterated* that the principal UN organs have distinct and separate roles in accordance with the UN Charter.

153. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Heads of State and Government will *continue* to undertake the following measures, among others:

153.1 Urge all States to uphold the primacy of and full respect for the provisions of the UN Charter pertaining to the functions and powers of the Assembly, *call on* the Presidents of the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and the Security Council to conduct regular discussions and coordination among themselves regarding the agenda and programme of work of the respective principal organs that they represent in order to establish increased coherence and complementarity among these organs in a mutually reinforcing manner, respectful of each other's mandates, and with a view to generating a mutual understanding among them, with

¹⁷ In accordance with Article 13 (1) of the UN Charter

whom the members of the respective organs that they represent have vested in good faith their trust and confidence;

153.2 Welcome as a step forward the informal meetings between the Presidents of the Council, and UN Member States on the *preparation* of the annual report of the Security Council and *call* for more regular interactions between future Presidents of the Security Council and the wider membership of the United Nations, which can help enhance the quality of such reports.

153.3 Call on the Security Council to submit a more explanatory, comprehensive and analytical annual report to the General Assembly, assessing the work of the Council, including such cases in which the Council has failed to act, and the views expressed by its members during the consideration of the agenda items under its consideration. Further call on the Security Council to elaborate the circumstances under which it adopts different outcomes whether resolutions, presidential statements, press statements or elements to the press.

153.4 Call on the Security Council, pursuant to Articles 15 (1) and 24 (3) of the UN Charter, to submit special reports for the consideration of the General Assembly.

153.5 Call on the Security Council to ensure that its monthly assessments are comprehensive and analytical, and issued in a timely fashion. The General Assembly may consider proposing parameters for the elaboration of such assessments.

153.6 Call on the Security Council to fully take into account the recommendations of the General Assembly on matters relating to international peace and security, consistent with Article 11 (2) of the Charter;

153.7 Oppose and stop ongoing attempts to shift issues under the agenda of the General Assembly or the ECOSOC to the Security Council, and the encroachment by the latter on the functions and *powers* of the Assembly.

153.8 Reiterate its concern and opposition to the on-going practice by the Security Council of continually dealing with human rights issues and *called* on the Security Council to respect its mandate as outlined in the UN Charter, as clearly stated in the Communiqué issued by the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement on 18 April 2017.

C. Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly

154. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed *and underscored* the validity and relevance of the principled positions of the Movement concerning the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, as follows:

154.1 The role and authority of the General Assembly, including in questions related to international peace and security, as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN,¹⁸ and its inter-governmental and democratic character as well as that of its subsidiary bodies, which have immensely contributed to the promotion of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the goals of the Organization, and the codification and progressive development of international law must be respected. Its prerogative as the chief oversight organ of the UN, including on management and procurement for peacekeeping operations, must also be respected.

154.2 The revitalization of the work of the General Assembly – which must be guided by the principles of democracy, transparency and accountability and achieved through open-ended and inclusive consultations – is a critical component of the comprehensive reform of the UN,

¹⁸ As affirmed in the Millennium Declaration, and reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document as well as in other relevant General Assembly resolutions.

and its objectives should continue to strengthen the role and position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, bearing in mind that the improvement of its procedural and working methods is only a first, though timely and important step towards more substantive improvements in the functioning and revitalization of the Assembly; and to restore and enhance the role and authority of the General Assembly, including in the maintenance of international peace and security as provided for in the Charter, though, *inter alia*, fully respecting its functions and powers and strengthening its relationship and coordination with other principal organs, in particular the Security Council.

155. The Heads of State and Government recalled UNGA resolution 69/321, and subsequent resolutions 70/305, 71/323, 72/313, 73/341, 74/303, 75/325 and 77/335.

156. The Heads of State and Government, in this regard, also *took note* of the UN Secretary General's reports A/70/681 (2016), A/71/780 (2017), A/72/736 (2018), A/74/704 (2022), A/75/973 (2021) and A/77/900 (2023).

157. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to continue to implement the following measures, among others:

157.1 Support all ongoing and continuous efforts to strengthen the central role and authority of the Assembly, taking into account the criteria of relevance and efficiency; *oppose* any reform proposal that seeks to challenge the central role and authority of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN; and *oppose* any approach that seeks to or could result in undermining or minimizing the achievements of the General Assembly or the mandates of its main committees, diminishing its current role and functioning, or raising questions about its relevance and credibility;

157.2 Stress the importance of implementing all previous resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, as well as the continuous follow-up on the effective implementation of these resolutions.

157.3 Call on UN Member States to renew their commitment and political will to implement *General Assembly* decisions and resolutions on a non-selective and non-discriminatory basis, since the failure to do so is at the root of many unresolved questions.

157.4 Ensure that the UN is provided with the resources needed to fully implement all mandated *programmes* and activities, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

157.5 Reaffirm the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, as stipulated in Articles 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 35 of the Charter of the UN, where appropriate using the procedures set forth in rules 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Articles 12 and 24 of the Charter;

157.6 The Heads of State and Government reiterated the role of the General Assembly in the maintenance of international peace and security and *expressed* grave concern at instances wherein the Security Council fails to address cases involving genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or ceasefire between belligerent parties, in fulfillment of its primary responsibility in this regard.

157.7 The Heads of State and Government emphasized that in such instances where the Security Council has not fulfilled its primary responsibility for the maintenance of

international peace and security, the General Assembly should take appropriate measures in accordance with the Charter to address the issue. To this extent, the Heads of State and Government recalled the decision taken at the 14th NAM Summit authorizing representatives of the Movement Member States to the UN in New York to work on an appropriate draft resolution to be submitted to the General Assembly on this issue.

157.8 Promote and preserve the role and mandate of the General Assembly in setting the priorities of the UN and in considering all budgetary and administrative issues and reform, including its absolute authority to allocate and reallocate financial and human resources, and in the appointment of senior officials in the Secretariat in accordance with the Charter and General Assembly resolutions thereof, through *ensuring*, inter alia, the full adherence by UN Member States to such resolutions;

157.9 In this regard, the Heads of State and Government underlined that in exercising its role, the General Assembly should ensure that the respective mandates and areas of competencies of all its main Committees be fully respected by all relevant stakeholders.

157.10 Ensure that the General Assembly should remain the principal organ that provides the only framework for reviewing the work of all its subsidiary organs and bodies.

157.11 Identify measures to simplify the Uniting for Peace procedure to enable swifter and urgent *action* by the General Assembly, in recognition of its role on issues relating to international peace and security as set out in the Charter.

157.12 Strengthen the role of the General Assembly in accordance with article 97 of the UN Charter in the *selection* of the Secretary General of the Organization. In this regard, the role of the General Assembly is imperative in ensuring the transparency, accountability and competitiveness of the process. This requires the Assembly's involvement at an early stage of the selection process when identifying candidates for this post.

157.13 Stress the need to enhance and strengthen the role of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, through the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations, and to provide the President of the General Assembly with adequate protocol and security services, as well as adequate office space, with a view to enabling the President to carry out his/her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office.

157.14 Underline the importance for the United Nations Secretariat to continue improving its forms and methods of work to ensure smooth and effective functioning of the General Assembly and its bodies, as well as enhance synergies and coherence and reduce overlap where it exists in the agenda of the General Assembly. In this regard, they welcomed paragraph 58 of resolution 72/313, which includes changes to the way in which the UN Journal will be published, thereby reflecting the Organization's commitment to multilingualism.

157.15 The Heads of State and Government commended the ongoing work of the NAM Working Group on the revitalization of the General Assembly under the chairmanship of Algeria, in coordinating issues of common concern to the Movement. They encouraged all NAM delegations to continue to actively participate in the Working Group with a view to promote and achieve the objectives of the Movement, and contribute to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly and strengthening multilateralism.

157.16 The Heads of State and Government welcomed paragraph 16 resolution 71/323, which requests to limit High-Level Meetings of UNGA to current issues of critical importance to the international community, with the interest of the wider membership in mind, and with

a focus on the most vulnerable, while encouraging the allocation of events of a strictly sectorial or thematic nature to the six Main Committees.

158. The Heads of State and Government recalled the resolution 14(I) of 13 February 1946 of the General Assembly, on the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (hereinafter the Advisory Committee) and its resolutions 1659 (XVI) of 28 November 1961, 2798 (XXVI) of 13 December 1971, 32 (103) of 14 December 1977 on the enlargement of the Advisory Committee.

159. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged that the membership of the United Nations has increased substantially since the last enlargement of the Advisory Committee and *stressed* that future enlargements must observe the principle of equitable geographical representation, as stipulated in the UN Charter, as well as relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and its relevant resolutions in this regard.

160. The Heads of State and Government fully *supported* the idea of the draft resolution on the "Enlargement of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; amendments to rule 155 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly" to be submitted by the Group of NAM in New York to the UN General Assembly.

D. Selection and Appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

161. The Heads of State and Government underlined the central role of the General Assembly in the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General of the UN and *expressed support* for efforts aimed at reinforcing and strengthening the role of the Assembly in this regard and *agreed that* all Non-Aligned Countries shall engage actively in these efforts.

162. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed, in this regard, that the Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly, in line with the provisions of Article 97 of the UN Charter. They further reaffirmed the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly on this matter; namely, that when the Security Council has submitted its recommendation on the appointment of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly shall consider the recommendation and vote upon it by secret ballot, in a private meeting, following wide and extensive consultations with all Member States of the Organization.

163. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need for greater transparency and inclusiveness in the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General. In this regard, they noted the outdated nature of resolution 11 (1) of January 1946 on the terms of appointment of the Secretary General, and emphasized that it is the General Assembly's prerogative and ability to debate and to vote on the appointment of the SG, and in this context, called upon the General Assembly to address both the nomination and appointment of the SG in accordance with resolutions 51/241, 60/286, 64/301, 66/294, 66/297 68/307, 69/321, 72/313 and 75/325 which should be fully implemented.

164. The Heads of State and Government noted that in the course of the identification and appointment of the best candidate for the post of Secretary-General, due regard shall continue to be given to regional rotation and shall also be given to gender equality as stipulated in para. 59 of resolution 51/241.

165. Recalling the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the UN Charter, the Heads of State and Government called upon the President of the General Assembly to consult with Member States to identify potential candidates presented by Member States and, upon informing all Member States of the results, forward these results to the Security Council.

166. In this context, the Heads of State and Government *agreed* that formal presentation of candidatures for the position of Secretary-General should be done in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with Member States in the General Assembly and the Security

Council, and in this regard welcomed the convening by the President of the General Assembly of the informal meetings of the General Assembly with the candidates endorsed by Member States and requested the President of the General Assembly to continue to undertake consultations with Member States in order to improve the preparation and holding of these hearings or informal meetings for an exchange of views and dialogue with all candidates.

167. The Heads of State and Government, in this regard, *recalled* the process of the selection and appointment of the ninth Secretary-General in 2016 and, in this regard, *welcomed* the signing of the joint letter by which the Presidents of both UNGA and the Security Council formally launched the beginning of the process. They urged that all future selection and appointment processes build upon these practices and called upon future PGAs and Presidents of the Security Council to continue the practice of holding timely informal dialogues, including town hall meetings, for an exchange of views with candidates presented by Member States to the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

168. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU/REP/2009/8) which noted that conducting hearings/meetings with candidates running for the posts of executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations common system, could improve their selection processes, in order to enhance transparency and credibility of the selection process and to make the process more inclusive of all nationalities.

E. Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council, and other Matters Related to the Security Council

169. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed and underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Security Council, in particular the directives of the Movement adopted during its 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th Summits, which have been reflected in the Movement's position and negotiating papers, and the decisions of the Ministerial Conferences and Meetings, as follows:

169.1 The Movement, while noting with appreciation efforts undertaken, *notes* with concern the lack of concrete results in the intergovernmental negotiations in the informal plenary of the General Assembly on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, and other matters related to the Council, based on General Assembly resolution 53/30 and decisions 62/557, 63/565, 64/568, 65/554, 66/556, 67/561, 68/557, 69/560 70/559, 71/553, 72/557, 73/554, 74/569, 75/569 76/572 and 77/559 and notes that the negotiations have shown that while a convergence of views has emerged, major differences still exist, and while there have been some improvements made to the working methods of the Council, they have not satisfied even the minimum expectations of the general membership of the UN, leaving much room for improvement;

169.2 The Heads of State and Government recalled the commitment of the Heads of States and Governments to instill new life in the discussion on the reform of the UN Security Council as reflected in the Declaration on the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, adopted in September 2020, which was co-facilitated by Qatar and Sweden.

169.3 In this context, the Heads of State and Government reiterated that General Assembly Decision 62/557 is and shall continue to be the basis of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Security Council reform.

169.4 Reform of the Security Council should be comprehensive, addressing all substantive issues relating, inter alia, to the question of the membership, regional representation, the Council's agenda, its working methods and decision-making process, including the veto, and

should garner the widest possible political acceptance by Member States in line with the provisions of the Charter and relevant General Assembly decisions particularly 62/557.

169.5 In recent years, the Security Council has been too quick to threaten or authorize enforcement action in some cases while being silent and inactive in others. Furthermore, the Council has been increasingly resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not necessarily pose an immediate threat to international peace and security. A careful review of these trends indicates that the Council could have opted for alternative provisions to respond more appropriately to particular cases. Instead of excessive and quick use of Chapter VII, efforts should be made to fully utilize the provisions of Chapters VI and VIII for the pacific settlement of disputes. Chapter VII should be invoked, as intended, as a measure of last resort. Unfortunately, provisions of Articles 41 and 42 in some cases have been too quickly resorted to while the other options had not been fully exhausted.

169.6 The Security Council-imposed sanctions remain an issue of serious concern to Non-Aligned Countries in view of the tenable legal grounds, impartiality and justice. In accordance with the UN Charter, sanctions should be considered to be imposed only after all means of peaceful settlement of disputes under Chapter VI of the Charter have been exhausted and a thorough consideration undertaken of the short-term and long-term effects of such sanctions, avoiding unintended consequences, in particular for the civilians and for the provision of humanitarian assistance. Sanctions are a blunt instrument, the use of which raises fundamental ethical questions of whether sufferings inflicted on vulnerable groups in the target country are legitimate means of exerting pressure. The objectives of sanctions are not to punish or otherwise exact retribution on the populace. In this regard, the objectives of sanctions regimes should be clearly defined, and that their imposition should be for a specified timeframe and be based on tenable legal grounds, and that they should be lifted as soon as the objectives are achieved. The conditions demanded of the State or party on which sanctions are imposed should be clearly defined and subject to periodic review. Sanctions should be imposed only when there exists a threat to international peace and security or an act of aggression, in accordance with the Charter, and that it is not applicable “preventively” in instances of mere violation of international law, norms or standards. Targeted sanctions may be a better alternative, so long as the population of the targeted State is not victimized, whether directly or indirectly.

169.7 Transparency, openness and consistency are key elements that the Security Council should observe in all its activities, approaches and procedures. Regrettably, the Council has neglected these important factors on numerous occasions. Such instances include unscheduled open debates with selective notification, reluctance in convening open debates on some issues of high significance, repeatedly restricting participation in some of the open debates and discriminating between members and non-members of the Council particularly with regard to sequencing and time limits of statements during the open debates, failure to submit special reports to the General Assembly as required under Article 24 of the Charter, submission of annual reports still lacking sufficient information and analytical content, and lack of minimal parameters for the elaboration of the monthly assessment by the Security Council Presidencies. The Council must comply with the provisions of Article 31 of the Charter, which allow any non-Council member to participate in discussions on matters affecting it. Rule 48 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Council should be thoroughly observed. Closed meetings and informal consultations should be kept to a minimum and as the exception they were meant to be.

169.8 The reform of the Security Council should be addressed in an early, comprehensive, transparent and balanced manner, without delay and without setting artificial deadlines. It should ensure that the agenda of the Council reflects the needs and interests of both developing and developed countries, in an objective, rational, non-selective and non-arbitrary manner.

169.9 The enlargement of the Council, as a body primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, and the reform of its working methods should lead to a democratic, transparent, more representative and inclusive, more accountable and more effective Council.

169.10 The Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, which have remained provisional for more than 75 years, should be formalized in order to improve its transparency and accountability.

169.11 The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the historical injustices against Africa with regard to its representation in the Security Council and expressed support for increased and enhanced representation for Africa in the reformed Security Council. The Heads of State and Government supported the African common position as reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.

169.12 The Heads of State and Government also *acknowledged* the underrepresentation of States, in particular from the Global South in the Security Council and expressed support for their increased representation in the reformed Security Council.

169.13 The Heads of State and Government congratulated the members of the Non-Aligned Movement elected as non-permanent members of the Security Council. They reaffirmed the necessity of working in the context of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council in the interest of fostering the interests of the Movement.

169.14 The Heads of State and Government renewed the directives to the Permanent Representatives in New York to continue to develop the elements of the position of the Movement on Security Council reform, taking into account all the options and views of Member States and groups, and to present a comprehensive report to the XX Summit of the Movement.

170. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures, among others:

170.1 Call on the Council to increase the number of public meetings, in accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter, and that these meetings should provide real opportunities to take into account the views and contributions of the wider membership of the UN, particularly non-Council members whose affairs are under the discussion of the Council.

170.2 Call on the Security Council to allow briefings by the Special Envoys or Representatives of the Secretary-General and the UN Secretariat to take place in public meetings, unless in exceptional circumstances.

170.3 Call on the Security Council to further enhance its relationship with the UN Secretariat and Troop and Police contributing countries (TPCCs), including through a sustained, regular and timely interaction. Meetings with TPCCs should be held not only in the drawing up of mandates, but also in their implementation, when considering a change in, or renewal of, or completion of a mission mandate, or when there is a rapid deterioration of the situation on the ground. In this context, the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations should involve TPCCs more frequently and intensively in its deliberations, especially in the very early stages of mission planning;

170.4 Call upon the Security Council to uphold the primacy of and respect for the Charter in connection with its functions and powers and stresses once again that the decision by the Security Council to initiate formal or informal discussions on the situation in any Member State of the United Nations or any issue that does not constitute a threat to international peace and security is contrary to Article 24 of the Charter.

170.5 *Call on* the Council to establish its subsidiary organs in accordance with the letter and spirit of the UN Charter, and that these organs should function in a manner that would provide adequate and timely information on their activities to the general UN membership.

170.6 *Reject* the use of the Security Council as a tool to pursue national political interests and agenda aggravating rather than alleviating situations contrary to its mission enshrined in the Charter, and *stress* the necessity of non-selectivity, impartiality and accountability in the work of the Council, and the need for the Council to strictly keep within the powers and functions accorded to it by the Member States under the UN Charter.

170.7 *Urge* the *Council* to avoid resorting to Chapter VII of the Charter as an umbrella for addressing issues that do not necessarily pose a threat to international peace and security, and to fully utilize the provisions of other relevant Chapters, where appropriate, including Chapters VI and VIII, before invoking Chapter VII which should be a measure of last resort, if necessary.

170.8 *Oppose* attempts through the imposition or prolongation of sanctions or their extension by the Security Council against any State under the pretext or with the aim of achieving the political objectives of one or a few States to stamp out the rights to sovereignty, existence and development of the Member States of the Movement, rather than in the general interest of the international community.

170.9 *Urge* the Non-Aligned countries, which are members of the Security Council,¹⁹ to promote *and* defend, as deemed possible, the aforementioned positions and objectives during their tenure of membership in the Council, and to this end to, while *noting* with satisfaction recent positive steps in that regard, *stress* the need for the consolidation of the NAM Caucus in the Council with the principal objective of coordinating and defending the positions of the Movement in the Security Council, and *call upon* the members of the Caucus to provide timely briefings and to engage in close consultation with the Non-Aligned Countries, particularly those whose interests and concerns are under consideration by the Council, as well as to keep the Movement continuously updated of all relevant developments and issues with which the Council is actively seized;

170.10 *Reject* the on-going practice of the Security Council of dealing with human rights issues in pursuit of certain states' political objectives.

F. Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

171. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 68/1 on the Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly Resolution 72/305 on the Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1, and reiterated the need to strengthen the role of the ECOSOC as a principal body for the promotion of international economic cooperation, coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and formulation of recommendations on issues of economic and social development as well as for the full implementation of the international development goals agreed at the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and *expressed* their resolve and commitment to promote greater efforts geared toward this end. They particularly *welcomed* ECOSOC's role in undertaking regular and periodic review and assessment of the balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and their

1. ¹⁹ Members of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council, comprising the Non-Aligned Countries currently members of the Security Council, are: Algeria (2024-2025), Ecuador (2023-2024), Guyana (2024-2025), Mozambique (2023-2024) and Sierra Leone (2024-2025)

impact on development, through the High-level Political Forum and Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) and called for full implementation of this role.

G. The Human Rights Council

172. Congratulating the NAM Member States recently elected to the Human Rights Council, during the 77th session of the General Assembly, the Heads of State and Government reiterated that the Human Rights Council should provide equal treatment to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, in particular the right to development. They further *stressed* that the Council should not allow confrontational approaches, exploitation of human rights for political purposes, selective targeting of individual countries for extraneous considerations and double standards in the conduct of its work, which should comply with the UN Charter, international law and relevant UN resolutions.

173. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that universality, transparency, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity should be guiding principles for the work of the Council and its methods of work. The Council in performing its responsibilities shall respect national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds of the Member States, as well as the right of every State to choose its own political, economic, legal and social system in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

174. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to and stressed the importance of preserving resolution 5/1 entitled Institutional Building of the Human Rights Council and resolution 5/2 entitled Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-Holders of the Human Rights Council, including their annexes and appendices, endorsed by resolution 62/219 of the UN General Assembly.

175. The Heads of State and Government further *stressed* the need to preserve the positive developments achieved since the establishment of the Human Rights Council in the context of its work, including its institutional building package. In this regard, they reaffirmed the need to defend the principles of non-selectivity, non-politicization, objectivity and impartiality in the consideration of human rights situations, as well as to ensure that human rights are not used for political purposes and adopting politically motivated decisions, in order to avoid the problems which plagued the former Human Rights Commission. In this regard, they expressed their concern over the proliferation of politicization and double standards, as well as country specific resolutions at the Human Rights Council.

176. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* the importance of adopting a constructive approach in the promotion and protection of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard, they *urged* the Human Rights Council²⁰ to promote consensus and to focus on constructive and genuine dialogue and cooperation with State Parties, as well as capacity building and technical assistance, provided upon the request in consultation with and with the consent of the concerned states and according to their national needs and priorities, to ensure the realization of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development.

177. The Heads of State and Government instructed the NAM Chapter in Geneva to strengthen the articulation of NAM's agreed positions, as contained in the Final Document and other relevant documents agreed/issued by the Coordinating Bureau, in the Human Rights Council, including their promotion and defense, as deemed possible, in accordance with the Movement's principles and the commitment of its Member States to the promotion and protection of human rights.

2. ²⁰ The 27 NAM Countries currently members of the 47-members of the HRC are Algeria (2025), Bangladesh (2025), Benin (2024), Bolivia (2023), Burundi (2026), Cameroon (2024), Cote-d'Ivoire (2026), Cuba (2026), Chile (2025), Dominica Republic (2026) Eritrea (2024), Gambia (2024), Ghana (2026), Honduras (2024), India (2024), Indonesia (2026), Kuwait (2026) Malaysia (2024), the Maldives (2025), Malawi (2023), Morocco (2025), Qatar (2024), Senegal (2023), Somalia (2024) South Africa (2025), Sudan (2025), United Arab Emirates (2024), and Vietnam (2025).

178. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* the importance of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner in promoting and protecting the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of the rights established in the Charter of the United Nations as well as in other universal human rights instruments to which the States are parties, and strictly in line with the mandate upon which it was created, without political bias, while avoiding any kind of politicization of the issue of human rights, as well as any interference in the internal affairs of the Member States of the Movement. They called on the NAM Member States in the Human Rights Council to provide, as and when appropriate, briefings to and engage in close consultations with the Non-Aligned Countries, particularly those whose interests and concerns are under consideration by the Council, as well as to keep the Movement, through its Chapter in Geneva, continuously updated of relevant developments and issues with which the Council is actively seized.

179. The Heads of State and Government emphasized *the need* to develop and maintain both an active and effective working relationship between the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in line with the spirit of General Assembly resolution 48/141. They further *stressed* that the Human Rights Council, being the expert inter-governmental body on human rights issues, should have an oversight role in reviewing the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including its activities under country engagement and establishing its field offices, as well as those related to its advisory services, technical and financial assistance and capacity building's activities, while ensuring the full respect of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as defined in resolution 48/141. In this connection, they *welcomed* the statement of the President of the Human Rights Council, adopted in the 15th session (PRST 15/2).

180. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the role of the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly responsible for consideration of human rights situations in all countries in the context of the Universal Periodic Review based on cooperation and constructive dialogue. The Heads of State and Government expressed their deep concern over the continuation and the proliferation of the practice of selective adoption of country-specific resolutions in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, as well as in the Human Rights Council, which is a tool that exploits human rights for political purposes breaches the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity in addressing human rights issues which undermine cooperation as the essential principle to effectively promote and protect all universally recognized human rights for all.

181. The Heads of State and Government stressed that the Universal Periodic Review is the main inter- governmental cooperative mechanism to review human rights issues at the national level in all countries without distinction, with the full involvement of the country concerned and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs.

182. The Heads of State and Government recalled the General Assembly resolution 60/251 which established the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and resolution 65/281, on the review of the HRC which also reaffirms the subsidiary status of the Organ and in this regard, *stressed* the importance of the general debate on, and interactive dialogue with the President of the Council and consideration of the report of the Council in the Third Committee.

183. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the importance of ensuring the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council as an action-oriented, cooperative mechanism based on objective and reliable information and interactive dialogue with full involvement of the countries under review and conducted in an impartial, transparent, non-selective, constructive, non-confrontational and non-politicized manner. They *further urged* all NAM members to continue to coordinate their efforts to support NAM Members States under review.

184. The Heads of State and Government *decided* to continue the actions taken by the Movement to address the ongoing practice of selective adoption of country specific resolutions and of the establishment of biased country specific mandates, including statements on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement during the interactive dialogues with the country specific mandates and consideration of country specific resolutions in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

185. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need to promote greater coherence and complementarity between the work of the Third Committee and the Human Rights Council and avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping in their activities as well as create a working and constructive relationship between them in addressing human rights situations.

186. The Heads of State and Government reiterated that the Non-Aligned Movement should continue to closely coordinate its position on the following priority areas:

- a) Fostering international cooperation and constructive dialogue in the Human Rights Council and prevent the occurrence of practices of double standards, selectivity and political manipulation which discredited the Commission on Human Rights;
- b) Continue working towards the enhancement and improvement, as appropriate, of the work of human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies system, special procedures, expert bodies and the confidential procedure, bearing in mind that while mandate holders exercise their functions in full respect for and strict observance of their mandate, they must observe the Code of Conduct for the Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Human Rights Council contained in HRC Resolution 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and reaffirmed in its resolution 11/11 of 18 June 2009, and also observe HRC resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011, including on resources and funding for special procedures, as well as the need to preserve all these mechanisms and bodies from politicization and double standards, so as to enhance the effectiveness of the system;
- c) Encouraging the presentation of experts from NAM countries as candidates for special procedures mandate-holders, and support candidates presented by NAM countries that are parties to the human rights treaty bodies and to give consideration, during the election, to inter alia, equitable geographical distribution, balanced gender representation and representation of different legal system.
- d) Developing the relationship of the Human Rights Council with other entities of the United Nations system, as appropriate, in accordance with the General Assembly resolutions 48/141, 60/251, 62/219, and 65/281;
- e) Determining the Council's reporting procedures to the UN General Assembly, for purposes of universal endorsement of all its programs and activities, in its capacity as subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. In this regard, initiate discussions among NAM Members to explore common grounds on the issue.
- f) Ensuring that any future review processes of the Council are directed towards enabling the Council to carry out, on the basis of cooperation and non-confrontation, its mandated role to promote all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, unless decided otherwise by the General Assembly, and should not aim at reforming the Council, but should be focused on taking the necessary measures to improve its work and functioning, as well as to contribute to improving the efficiency of the Council in order to be able to carry out, on the basis of cooperation and non-confrontation, its mandated role in accordance with its institution building to promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and review its status as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, in accordance with resolutions 60/251 and 65/281.

- g) Rejecting the establishment of any additional country-specific tools which would lead to politicization, double standards and selectivity in dealing with human rights issues and exerting efforts to discard these tools;
- h) Preserving the Universal Periodic Review as the only international mechanism to review human rights situation in all Member States on equal footing;
- i) Ensuring that the Universal Periodic Review be conducted by the Human Rights Council as a result-oriented, cooperative mechanism, based on an interactive dialogue, with the full involvement of the country under review and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs and that such a mechanism shall complement and not duplicate the work of treaty bodies, bearing in mind the need to eradicate selectivity, double standards and politicization in the consideration of human rights issues. It should aim at strengthening the Member States capacity, upon their request and consent as well as in consultation with them, to implement their obligations, on promotion and protection of human rights. It should not be used as a tool to coerce States and subject them to politically motivated country-specific resolutions;
- j) Ensuring also that the Universal Periodic Review is conducted in an objective manner, on the basis of credible and reliable information, and taking duly into consideration information, comments and observations of the country under review. It should not be used as a tool to interfere in the internal affairs of States or to question their political, economic, and social systems, their sovereign rights, and their national, religious and cultural particularities. It must continue to be implemented in accordance with UNGA resolutions 60/251, 62/219 and 65/281;
- k) Supporting NGOs participation in the work of the Human Rights Council, based inter alia on ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 and the modalities established by the Human Rights Council, taking into consideration that NGOs shall be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, should conform at all times to the principles governing the establishment and nature of their consultative relations with ECOSOC, the principles and purposes as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations, and refrain from any unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against Member States of the United Nations incompatible with those purposes and principles in accordance with article 57 (b) of the resolution 1996/31 and that they are responsible for the actions of their accredited representatives during their participation in the work of the Human Rights Council.

187. The Heads of State and Government recalled the resolution 70/151 on Human rights and unilateral coercive measures through which the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 27/21 to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights.

188. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of UN Human Rights Council resolution 46/14 of 23 March 2021 on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, at the initiative of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and Ecuador, as well as the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 49/25 of 1 April 2022 on the same topic, put forward by Azerbaijan and Ecuador.

189. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the adoption at the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council at the initiative of a group of NAM Member States, namely Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Kenya, Malaysia and Thailand, of resolution 52/8 of 3 April 2023, entitled “Promoting human rights and Sustainable Development Goals through transparent, accountable and efficient public services delivery”.

H. Peacebuilding Activities and the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

190. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the importance and merit of the concept of “Sustaining Peace”, as understood in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly (70/262) and the Security Council (S/RES/2282). The Heads of State and Government underscored that the Peacebuilding Commission and its Country-Specific Configurations, as well as the Peacebuilding Fund, have a significant role to play in enhancing complementarity between peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace in all stages of the conflict efforts, when major agreements that relate to United Nations mission mandates and transitions are agreed between the United Nations and national Governments. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the primary responsibility of national Governments, their leadership and ownership in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities and, in this regard, emphasized that inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society were taken into account.

191. The Heads of State and Government took note with appreciation the adoption, on 21 December 2020, of twin resolutions A/RES/75/201 and S/RES/2558 by which the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council endorsed the 2020 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. The Heads of State and Government further welcomed the adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution 76/305 titled “Financing for peacebuilding” which will contribute to advancing ongoing efforts to address existing gaps in peacebuilding financing and ensure adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding. In this regard, they also welcomed the milestones of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Financing for Peacebuilding, held on 27 April 2022 in New York, as well as the High-level Replenishment Conference for the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, held virtually on 26 January 2021.

192. The Heads of State and Government recognised the contribution of peacekeeping operations, where mandated, to a comprehensive strategy for sustaining peace, and noted with appreciation the contributions that peacekeepers and peacekeeping missions make to peacebuilding.

193. The Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) *recalled* the 14th Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Havana, Cuba September 2006 at which, the Heads of State and Government of the Movement *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement’s principled positions concerning peacebuilding activities and had *welcomed* the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) as by General Assembly resolution 60/180; as a coordinated, coherent and integrated institutional mechanism, to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict, towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction at their request in accordance with the principle of national ownership”, in laying the foundation for sustainable development. The Heads of State and Government also *acknowledged* the adoption of relevant review resolutions.

194. In pursuit of this mandate, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the Non-Aligned Movement’s commitment to an efficient and effective Peacebuilding Commission, which fully utilizes the advantages and benefits arising from the diversity of its composition. They also acknowledged the work undertaken by the Commission since it started its operations with respect to the five countries on its current agenda, namely: Burundi, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, the Central African Republic, and Liberia, and also its activities and flexible engagements, as per the country’s request, in countries beyond the country configuration mechanism, in diverse geographical regions, including through implementation of Peacebuilding Fund projects. They also acknowledged the progress achieved so far, in the elaboration of the strategic frameworks for peacebuilding for these countries and the contribution of PBC annual reports in tracking progress in this regard.

195. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the role of the NAM Caucus within the Peacebuilding Commission aimed at coordinating positions of Non-Aligned countries in the Commission and to keep the Movement informed of the activities carried out by the Commission.

In this connection, they lauded the efforts of the Caucus in the rapid progress of the Commission, specifically towards the entrenchment of the principle of national ownership, the need for capacity building and drawing recognition to, and signaling the importance of the economic recovery and development dimension in the peace building process and advocating for ensuring adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

196. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of regular audience of the coordinator of the NAM Caucus in the PBC by members of the Security Council on matters related to the competence of the PBC. They *urged* the Security Council, the General Assembly and ECOSOC to utilize the expertise of the PBC, including the coordinator of the NAM Caucus of the PBC, as the representative of the largest grouping within the PBC, by ensuring participation in discussions on all issues of relevance to, or falling within, the competence of the PBC. Furthermore, they *stressed* on the necessity to promote the institutional relation between the PBC and the General Assembly, the Security Council and the ECOSOC.

197. The Heads of State and Government reiterated that, without prejudice to the functions and powers of the other principal organs of the UN in relation to peacebuilding activities, the General Assembly must play the key role in the formulation and implementation of such activities and functions. They *underlined* the centrality of the intergovernmental advisory role of the PBC in providing the United Nations with policy guidance and strategies in peacebuilding activities, in accordance with its mandate. In this regard they *reaffirmed* the work of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission as the central organ of the Commission, with responsibilities as described in the General Assembly's resolutions 60/180, 65/7, 70/262, 72/276, 75/201 and 76/305. They also *considered* the organizational committee a suitable platform for strategy and policy discussions to reinforce the coherence of the Commission's Configurations and to facilitate a result-oriented engagement with relevant actors and stakeholders. In this connection also, they *urged* the NAM Caucus in the Commission to encourage work towards the further development and review of rules of procedure and methods of work, suitable for the efficient and proper functioning of the Commission. They *emphasized* that the working methods and provisional rules of procedure of the PBC need to be regularly revisited in the light of the experience gained by the Commission since its operationalization, and the developments in the work of the Commission.

198. The Heads of State and Government praised the important role as well played by NAM Member States in the review process of the arrangements set out in General Assembly resolutions 60/180, 65/7, 70/262, 72/276, and 75/201 to ensure that they are appropriate to fulfill the agreed functions of the Peacebuilding Commission as part of the peacebuilding architecture. They *reaffirmed* the necessity to provide necessary and timely resources, in order to help ensure predictable financing for recovery activities and sustained financial investment, over the medium to long-term. They *reiterated* the fundamental role of the PBC in the conception, with the consent of the countries under the consideration of the PBC, of integrated strategies for peacebuilding and recovery, and in conformity with the principles of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and national ownership.

199. The Heads of State and Government welcomed UN General Assembly resolution 76/305 adoption and praised the noteworthy role of the NAM Member States in its negotiation, due to the importance of addressing the existing financing gaps for ensuring an adequate, predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding, through considering all options including voluntary, innovative, assessed funding and non-monetary contributions. The Heads of State and Government also emphasized the need for coordination among the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and international and regional financial institutions and further encouraged efforts to mobilize public resources, foster South-South and triangular cooperation, spur private investment and explore innovative financing mechanisms. They also underscored the importance of transition finance plans established at an early stage, without undermining the peacekeeping mandate implementation.

200. Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government *commended* the contribution of two NAM members Egypt and Bangladesh as the chairs of PBC for strengthening the partnerships and engagements of PBC with the regional and sub-regional organizations, and international and regional financial institutions. The Heads of State and Government also commended the PBC's annual session in 2022 which was first ever meeting dedicated to the participation of regional development banks.

201. The Heads of State and Government stressed *the importance* of ensuring that the country specific configurations of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as its activities beyond country-specific configurations, upon their request, develop effective and cooperative mechanisms based on a sustained dialogue with the host under review. They *further urged* the Peacebuilding Commission to operationalize the principle of national ownership and leadership through the adoption of a demand-driven approach based on joint assessments with host countries.

202. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the strengthening of the advisory role of the PBC to the Security Council, in particular before mandate renewals. In this context, they called upon the PBC to strengthen its advisory role to the General Assembly and to the ECOSOC. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government commended the role of Bangladesh and Egypt in strengthening the advisory role of the PBC during their chairmanship in 2022 and 2021.

203. In this respect, the Heads of State and Government *emphasized* the role of the PBC as an intergovernmental advisory body to provide specific, strategic, and targeted recommendations, at the request of the Security Council, on issues relating to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the formation, review, drawdown and transition of peacekeeping operations. The Heads of State and Government highlighted, in this regard, that United Nations efforts should be underpinned by a joint analysis of the root causes of conflict and risks.

204. The Heads of State and Government recognized that it is host States which lead efforts to ensure that the needs and participation of all segments of society, in particular women and young people, are considered in building and sustaining peace, as well as the importance of United Nations country teams to support national authorities in their efforts to include and engage all segments of the population in enhancing their capacities in the peacebuilding process.

205. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need for further resource mobilization among NAM Member States for the Peacebuilding Fund as a vehicle that fosters local participation and strengthens domestic resource mobilization and capacity-building. They also underlined the urgency of adequate and predictable resources for UN Peacebuilding activities.

206. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2012/29 which reiterates inter alia the principles of national ownership and highlights the important role of the PBC in supporting peacebuilding efforts in the aftermath of conflict, as well as the Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2017/27 which reiterates, inter alia, the key elements related to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, that need to be considered by the Security Council when reviewing the mandates and configuration of peacekeeping missions, both of them presented by NAM Member at the Security Council during their membership of this body. They further welcomed Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2018/20, which acknowledges, inter alia, the importance of strong coordination, coherence and cooperation between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

207. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* that the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) must continue to be used as a catalytic mechanism geared not only towards providing critical support during the early stages of the peace building process to avert relapse into conflict but also promoting and sustaining peace, in conformity with the principle of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, national ownership and leadership; as well as the roles of national Governments. They *stressed* the need for closer synergy between the PBC and the PBF, through a strengthened

strategic relationship, to ensure greater coherence and coordination and the avoidance of duplication.

208. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the 2017-2019 Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund Strategic Plan acknowledged and emphasized the Secretary-General's concerns of the risks and challenges due to lack of adequate, predictable and sustained funding for peacebuilding activities of the UN which were detailed in the Report of the Secretary-General A/76/668-S/2022/66.

209. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the geographical and thematic expansion of the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2022 during the chairmanship of Bangladesh. They applauded the increase in the PBC's engagements on cross cutting issues such as the negative impact of climate change on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

210. The Heads of State and Government underscored the importance of South-South cooperation in support for national level capacity and institution building in support of peacebuilding activities in conflict situations, including through peacekeeping operations in accordance with their mandates, as well as enhanced regional, South-South and triangular cooperation.

211. The Heads of State and Government welcomed Egypt's efforts in consolidating the regional dimension of peacebuilding within the United Nations system, including the introduction of the "Cairo Roadmap". The Heads of State and Government also welcomed the Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace initiative launched at the COP27.

212. The Heads of State and Government commended the ongoing work of the NAM caucus in the PBC in strengthening the position and role of the Movement in the Peacebuilding Commission. In this regard, they *expressed* their appreciation for the efforts of Bangladesh during its chairmanship of the NAM caucus. They *further encouraged* the non-aligned members of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Non-Aligned countries which are on its agenda, to actively participate in the NAM Caucus to ensure its purposeful contribution to the Peacebuilding activities of the United Nations.

213. The Heads of State and Government commended the continued efforts of all peacebuilding country-specific configurations. In this regard, they especially lauded the Central African Republic country Configuration, in particular the numerous visits to the country, the engagement and the support of the Central African authorities for the organization of presidential, legislative and local elections, the revitalization of the 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (APPR) and its integration with the 2021 joint Luanda Roadmap, and for the implementation of the National Peacebuilding and Recovery Plan (RCPA), as well as the advocacy role towards the Security Council and all the other bilateral and multilateral partners of the CAR. They also expressed their appreciation for the continued activities of the reference group in support of the promotion of the rule of law in CAR, which provides regular updates on the developments in transitional justice, including the activities of the Special Criminal Court, and the operationalization of the Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Reconciliation Commission, as well as on the reestablishment of the penal chain in the country. They recognized the continued efforts to strengthen its advisory role to the Security Council, materialized, inter alia, by the submission of Written Advice from the Configuration to the Security Council before the renewal of MINUSCA's mandate, and efforts focused on working more closely with the ECOSOC. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation for the role of the Kingdom of Morocco in this regard, in its capacity as Chairman of the Central African Republic country Configuration.

214. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need for integrated peacebuilding strategies and programmes that are consistent with and in line with host-country strategies and programmes, with a view to ensure national ownership. They also reiterated that long term peacebuilding processes require a stronger partnership with donors to enhance speed, flexibility

and risk tolerance of funding mechanisms, including for regional and cross-cutting issues under the PBC's consideration.

215. The Heads of State and Government underlined the need for the PBC to establish dynamic partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations and to ensure that regional efforts receive the required attention and support. They also *welcomed* the signing of the AU-UN Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, the African Union Center for Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUC-PCRD) with its headquarters in Cairo, and *expressed* the need to continue enhancing this important partnership.

216. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the importance of ensuring meaningful participation of women in all stages of the peace process and systematically integrating women into all stages of analysis, planning, implementation and reporting of Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace activities including through the relevant provisions of the intergovernmental negotiated Peacebuilding Commission's Gender Strategy and the Action Plan in the Secretary-General's report on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding.

217. The Heads of State and Government considered ways to increase meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in peacebuilding efforts through creating policies, including in partnership with private sector where relevant, that would enhance youth capacities and skills, and create youth employment to actively contribute to sustaining peace.

I. United Nations Secretariat and Management Reform

218. Recognizing that the reform of the UN is a collective agenda of its membership, the Heads of State and Government stressed that the voice of every Member States must be heard and respected during the reform process, irrespective of its level of contribution to the budget of the Organization.

219. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the efforts led by the Secretary-General on management reform and welcomed an inclusive and consultative process. They *called for* continued consultations and deepened engagements with all Member States as meaningful reform requires ownership of the entire membership of the Organization. They *emphasized* that the reforms should increase transparency, accountability, efficiency and oversight. They emphasized the centrality of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the need to monitor and evaluate mandate implementation. They *underscored* the importance of addressing gender parity and balanced geographical representation at all levels of the Secretariat and ensuring fair and equitable access to United Nations procurement opportunities for developing country Member States.

220. The Heads of State and Government recognized that in order to advance the reform process of the Secretariat and Management, as approved by member states, the United Nations must be equipped with the necessary and sufficient resources to allow its full implementation, avoiding any delay in this task.

221. The Heads of State and Government furthermore *expressed* concern at the continued decline in the level of resources made available to the United Nations as a whole, which seriously hampers and limits mandate implementation across the Organization, including its reform initiatives. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government look forward to continue to have transparent and inclusive discussions among Member States regarding the improvement of the financial situation of the United Nations.

222. The Heads of State and Government stressed *the importance* of ensuring that the Secretariat meets the highest standards of accountability, transparency, integrity and ethical conduct. The Heads of State and Government, therefore, *urged* the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to fully implement General Assembly resolution 66/257, 67/253, 68/264, 69/272, 71/283, 72/303 and 73/289 entitled "Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations

Secretariat”, and other relevant resolutions, bearing in mind that accountability is a central pillar of effective and efficient management that requires attention and strong commitment at all levels of the Secretariat, especially at the highest level.

223. The Heads of State and Government stressed *the need* to increase the representation of developing countries, in particular at the senior levels, and to achieve gender balance, improve geographic distribution, in particular from member States not or underrepresented, in the Secretariat, and enhance transparency in the recruitment process.

224. The Heads of State and Government reiterated that the objectives of the reform of the Secretariat of the UN and its management are as follows:

- a) To respond more efficiently and effectively to the needs of Member States.
- b) To further strengthen and update the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the UN and thus, improving its performance in order to realize the full potential of the Organization, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter;
- c) To ensure the effective enforcement of greater accountability and transparency measures within the Secretariat as well as accountability of the Secretariat towards Member States in particular at the senior managers’ level, and to fully implement, in this regard General Assembly resolution 64/259, 68/264, 69/272, 71/283, 72/303 and 73/289;
- d) To better reflect the international character of the United Nations Secretariat as a fundamental principle through better observance of equitable geographical representation at all levels of the Secretariat, including senior managerial level, as well as to achieve the targeted gender balance among all staff members, in accordance with article 101 of the Charter;
- e) The final result of the reform process should be to ensure that the UN is able to implement all its mandates more effectively and efficiently.

225. The Heads of State and Government emphasized that the reform of the Secretariat of the UN and its management should not:

- a) Change the intergovernmental nature and mechanisms of the decision- making, oversight and monitoring processes of the Organization.
- b) Be a cost-cutting exercise of the Organization.
- c) Affect the accomplishment of the mandates through the reduction of the budget levels of the Organization;
- d) Fund more activities from within the existing pool of resources of the Organization;
- e) Change and/or encroach on the mandate of the Fifth Committee, as the main Committee for the administrative and budgetary issues;
- f) Redefine the functions and powers of the principal organs of the Organization; and
- g) Undermine the need to fully observe the principle of the geographical distribution of the appointment to the posts in the UN Secretariat, in particular the D level and above.
- h) The Heads of State and Government furthermore *stressed* the need to continue to submit for the consideration and prior approval of the General Assembly, through its

Fifth Committee, any proposal or measure related to the implementation of reform initiatives.

226. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and *stressed* that any proposals to amend the overall departmental structure, as well as the budgetary, programming, planning, monitoring and evaluation process of the Organization, are subject to review and prior approval by the General Assembly.

227. The Heads of State and Government strongly *supported* the oversight role performed by the General Assembly, as well as its relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, in planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. In this context, they renewed their commitment to strengthen the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The Heads of State and Government also *urged* the rest of the membership of the United Nations to actively participate in the sessions of the Committee.

228. The Heads of State and Government strongly *rejected* attempts to impose conditionalities to the reform process which negatively impact the confidence atmosphere needed for the negotiations.

229. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of the General Assembly resolutions 65/247 and 65/248 on the Human Resources Management and the United Nations Common System which finalized the establishment of the new contractual arrangements and harmonized the conditions of service in the field of the United Nations and expect that the implementation of such resolutions brings about a better and more transparent recruitment process of personnel to the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations common system, while creating more opportunities to recruit young professional staff from developing countries.

230. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 77/278 on Human Resources Management, after six years of no consensus. They agreed that the comprehensive resolution will give guidance necessary for the UN Secretariat to achieve its management reform goals, including developing a more efficient, fair and agile recruitment system, which can create a diverse and more representative workforce across the UN global system, and help improve UN operational processes by increasing transparency and accountability of the organization.

J.Repositioning of the United Nations Development System

231. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018, entitled “Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system”, and called for its full and early implementation in order to improve support to countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and enhance national ownership and leadership. They also welcomed, in this regard, the role played by Algeria in co-facilitating with Denmark the intergovernmental process.

232. The Heads of State and Government underlined that the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (QCPR) is the main instrument to better position the United Nations development system (UNDS) to support countries, upon their request, in their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and enhance national ownership and leadership. In this regard, the review of the remaining functions and existing capacities of the UN development system should be carried out in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 71/243 of 21 December 2016, 72/279/ of 31 May 2018, 75/233 of 21 December 2020 and 76/4 of 2 November 2021.

233. The QCPR's mandate should be the basis of the repositioning of the UNDS, in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government insisted that the QCPR is a development resolution and thus this should be the focus of the process.

234. The eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions is our highest priority and the underlying objective of the UNDS. It is very important that the operational activities for development of the UNDS take into account the need to build, promote, and strengthen the capacity of developing countries in their efforts to address long-term sustainable development at the national level, especially least developed countries that still face difficulty in addressing poverty and hunger. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government reiterated the need for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental, in a balanced and integrated manner.

235. The Heads of State and Government underlined the importance of leaving no one behind, based on the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

236. The operational activities for development of the UNDS should fully respect States' sovereignty, independence, and ownership over its own development pathways and recognize the importance of national ownership and leadership, bearing in mind the different development levels and realities on the ground in these countries. In this regard, they should take into account the different realities, capacities, and levels of national development, respecting national policies and priorities.

237. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* that the UN development system repositioning should continue adapting in order to better support developing countries, upon their request, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their national plans and strategies with the overarching objective of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through strengthening coordination, coherence and collaboration among all UN agencies, reinforcing the principles of accountability, transparency and oversight by Member States, according to the mandate of each institution, in order to achieve greater impact and results.

238. The Heads of State and Government also *underlined* that the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework) or United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) should remain the only instrument for cooperation with developing countries, bearing in mind the different realities, capacities, and levels of national development, respecting national policies and priorities and political, economic, social and cultural specificities as well as ensuring that the development system contribute effectively to mobilizing more predictable, flexible, and less earmarked funding for the implementation of Agenda 2030.

239. The Heads of State and Government requested the United Nations development system to continue to support all programme countries, regardless of which modality for the delivery of assistance they prefer to adopt, in accordance with their development plans and priorities.

240. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the “no one size fits all” approach to development and the principle of voluntary adoption of the “Delivering as one” approach by the programme country, and requested the United Nations development system to enhance its cooperation for development to maximize the “Delivering as one” approach in the countries that choose it, including through lessons learned and by integrating programmatic and operational functions in order to enhance coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and the impact of country-level efforts.

241. The Heads of State and Government encouraged the United Nations Development System to adapt its governance structure to be more responsive to the needs of Member States, in a more

efficient approach, and called for improved coordination, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities for development, and thereby strengthen support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

242. The Heads of State and Government further *reaffirmed* the critical role of the United Nations Development System at the regional level and the need to strengthen the role of the regional and sub-regional approaches in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the context of the UNDS repositioning process, while emphasizing the need for a “no one size fits all” approach at the regional level and to build upon the specificities of each region and the strength of its regional mechanisms, including the Regional Economic Commissions as one of the main subsidiary bodies of the ECOSOC.

243. The Heads of State and Government *commended* the effective coordination between NAM and G-77, through the Joint Coordinating Committee, in the consultations on the System-wide Coherence, and in this regard *undertook* to continue to work together with the G-77, through the JCC, with a view to continue defending, preserving and promoting the interests of developing countries and promoting the integrated, intergovernmental, inclusive and transparent nature of all relevant negotiation processes, without the imposition of artificial deadlines for decision-making.

244. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the growing contribution of the repositioned United Nations development system in maximizing the impact of United Nations action in support of countries’ implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

245. The Heads of State and Government welcomed UN General Assembly resolution 76/4 entitled “Review of the functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinators system, including its funding arrangement”, and further welcomed, in this regard, the role played by Algeria co-facilitated with Denmark in the negotiations process. They emphasized that adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding of the resident coordinator system is essential to delivering a coherent, effective, efficient and accountable response in accordance with national needs and priorities.

United Nations: Financial Situation and Arrangement

246. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the financial situation and arrangement of the UN, as contained in the Final Document of the 18th NAM Summit as follows:

246.1 The Movement *remained concerned* at the financial situation of the UN as a result of the failure on the part of some Member States, especially major contributing States, to meet their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

246.2 The Movement *recognized* that the imposition of Unilateral Coercive Measures, unilateral sanctions or embargos has resulted in some cases in the failure of Member States to meet their assessed contributions to the UN in a timely manner, reason for which their immediate and complete lifting is urged;

246.3 The Movement *reiterated* that it remains crucial to ensure that all decisions on the priority-setting of the UN are adopted in an inclusive and transparent manner in the intergovernmental bodies, in full compliance with General Assembly resolutions, and that the Organization should be provided with the resources needed for the full and effective implementation of all mandated programmes and activities as well as those required to guarantee the quality of services needed for the functioning of its inter-governmental machinery;

- 246.4 The principle of capacity to pay of Member States should remain as the fundamental criterion in the apportionment of the expenses of the Organization;
- 246.5 The general principles governing the financing of UN peacekeeping operations, as set out in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, should be adhered to. A proper balance should be struck between the level and urgency with which peacekeeping activities are funded on the one hand, and availability of resources needed for full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities by the General Assembly, in particular in the area of development, on the other.
- 246.6 To strike a balance in reflecting the agreed priorities of the Organization in the allocation of resources to the United Nations regular budget; which is persistently to the detriment of the development activities;
- 246.7 The existing reporting procedures on budget and financial cycle should be maintained and the role of the Member States in programme evaluation of the Organization should be strengthened. In this regard, reaffirm the functions of the Committee on Program and Coordination (CPC), as the main subsidiary organ of ECOSOC and the General Assembly for planning, programming, monitoring, evaluation and coordination and its vital role in program design by ensuring that the Secretariat accurately interprets and translates legislative mandates into programs and sub-programs.
247. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the financial stability of the UN should not be jeopardized by any arbitrary measure, particularly imposition of arbitrary cuts or ceilings to the level of the budget. They also *stressed* that measures to ensure financial discipline should be taken in full compliance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular 41/213 and 42/211, as well as relevant rules and regulations of the Organization. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the financial rules and regulations of the United Nations.
248. The Heads of State and Government stressed that any efforts to use financial contributions to push for the adoption of certain proposals are counterproductive and violate the obligations of the Member States to provide resources for the Organization, as enshrined in its Charter. The Heads of State and Government, in this context, *rejected* all unilateral coercive measures contrary to the international law, which obstruct and sometimes impede payments of assessed contributions from Members of the Non-Aligned Movement to the budgets of the Organization.
249. The Heads of State and Government stressed that the level of resources to be approved by the General Assembly must be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities in order to ensure their full and effective implementation. They also reaffirmed the priorities of the Organization as approved by the General Assembly and the need for the Secretary-General to fully reflect these priorities when presenting proposed programme budgets.
250. The Heads of State and Government stressed that the ceiling is the main distortionary element of the scale of assessments, affecting the principle of capacity to pay and *noted* with concern that despite the arrangement to reduce the ceiling from 25% to 22% in 2000 as a compromise, the major contributor is far from honoring its commitment to pay all its arrears. In this context, the Heads of State and Government urged the General Assembly to undertake a review of this arrangement, in accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 55/5 C.
251. The Heads of State and Government, while recalling General Assembly resolutions 64/248 and 65/246, *rejected* any change to the elements of the current methodology for the preparation of the scale of assessments aimed at increasing the contributions of developing countries. In this regard, they emphasized that the core elements of the current methodology of the scale of assessments, such as base period, Gross National Income, conversion rates, low per capita

income adjustment, gradient, floor, ceiling for Least Developed Countries and debt stock adjustment must be kept intact and are not negotiable.

252. The Heads of State and Government emphasized that organizations which have an enhanced observer status at the United Nations giving them the rights and privileges usually applied only to observer states, such as the right to speak in the general debate of the General Assembly and the right of reply, should also have the same financial obligations to the United Nations as observer states. In this context, they *urged* the General Assembly to consider a decision on an assessment for such organizations.

253. The Heads of State and Government affirmed that the current principles and guidelines for the apportionment of the expenses of peacekeeping operations approved by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions should constitute a basis for any discussion on the peacekeeping scale. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government stressed that the peacekeeping scale must clearly reflect the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security. The Heads of State and Government also *recalled* that the economically less developed countries have limited capacity to contribute towards the budgets of peacekeeping operations. In this context, the Heads of State and Government emphasized that any discussion on the system of discounts applied to the peacekeeping scale should take into account the conditions of developing countries whose current positions must not be negatively affected. The Heads of State and Government stressed, in this regard, that no member of the Non-Aligned Movement should therefore be categorized above level C of the peacekeeping scale of assessment.

254. The Heads of State and Government rejected the use of programmatic and budgetary documents by several authorial departments of the Secretariat and some Member States to promote concepts and approaches that are not adopted by the General Assembly or are under its review. In this context, The Heads of State and Government urged the Secretary General to ensure that, when presenting such documents, the programmatic aspects and the resources requirements are consistent with the legislative mandates of the General Assembly.

255. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the exponential increase in the financial requirements and complexity of Special Political Missions over the past decade and acknowledge their unique characteristics in terms of establishment and financing, since they do not follow the regular budget cycle of the United Nations, despite being funded by this budget. In order to enhance efficiency and transparency of the budgetary process of the Organization, and taking into account the characteristics of the approval, functioning, scope and mandate of these activities, the Heads of State and Government therefore *believed* that Special Political Missions should be financed through the same criteria, methodology and mechanisms used to fund peacekeeping operations, including the establishment of a new separate account for Special Political Missions. The Heads of State and Government reemphasized their position in that regard, and called for the consideration of creating such separate account within the United Nations peace operations review.

256. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, The Heads of State and Government agreed to reiterate the following measures, among others:

256.1 Urge all UN Member States in arrears, in particular the major contributing States, to settle their outstanding dues without further delay and to pay their future assessments in full, on time and without imposing preconditions in accordance with the Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions, *mindful* at the same time of the special situation faced by some developing countries that hamper their ability to pay their assessed contributions.

257. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the UN General Assembly resolutions 74/264 A-C of 27 December 2019, 75/254 A-C of 31 December 2020 and 76/247 A-C of 24

December 2021, regarding the annual Programme budgets of the United Nations for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022, and highly commended in this regard, the role of Iraq, a Member State of NAM, as a facilitator for the intergovernmental consultations for three years in a row, which led to the consensual conclusion and allocation of the necessary resources for the work of the United Nations.

United Nations: Peacekeeping Operations

258. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the guiding principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs) adopted at the 11th Ministerial Conference of NAM held in Cairo in 1994 and reiterated the Movement's position on UNPKOs adopted by the 12th Summit held in Durban in 1998 as well as in the Movement's subsequent Summit Conferences, which have been further reiterated at the subsequent NAM Summits and Ministerial Meetings.

259. The Heads of State and Government underlined that Peacekeeping is the flagship activity of the United Nations and represents a true symbol for the promotion of international peace and security, while noting the increasingly volatile context in which Peacekeepers operate due to the emergence of new transnational challenges and threats.

260. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the importance of the UN Secretary-General's efforts to reform the Peace and Security pillar, in order to make the UN system more coherent, resilient and able to meet the multidimensional challenges, in particular in peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in full respect of the principles of the UN Charter and established mandates.

261. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the celebration in 2023 of the 75th anniversary of UN peacekeeping, which constitutes a critical and an effective tool for maintaining international peace and security. The Heads of State and Government particularly welcomed the consensual adoption, on 17 March 2023, of the substantive report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which remains the only UN forum mandated by the UN General Assembly to review the whole question of peacekeeping operations, especially during the current trying times and the complex challenges facing peacekeeping operations and peacekeepers.

262. The Heads of State and Government took *note with appreciation* of the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative, launched on 28 March 2018 with the aim of pursuing a comprehensive and deep reform of UN Peacekeeping Operations. They underscored the value of the A4P Declaration of Shared Commitments adopted during the High-Level Meeting held on 25 September 2018, on the margins of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly, which is aimed at ensuring collective efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of UN Peacekeeping, in order to address the changing realities. They also expressed their keenness to translate this Declaration of Shared Commitments into a practical, balanced, integrated and mutually reinforcing implementation framework, and welcomed, in this regard, the "High-Level Regional Conference on Enhancing Performance of Peacekeeping Operations: From Mandate to Exit", held from 18-19 November 2018, in Egypt, which resulted in the "Cairo Roadmap", while acknowledging its valuable contribution towards that end. They also acknowledged that all relevant stakeholders, need to redouble their efforts in translating their commitments into practices, including in all relevant UN bodies, as well as at field level, including the General Assembly and the Security Council in their consideration of peacekeeping, and to meet periodically in relevant UN formats to review progress, including at field-level.

263. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need for NAM Member States, and T/P CCs in particular, to increase and enhance women's participation in peacekeeping operations both qualitatively and quantitatively, taking into account T/PCCs national legislations in line with UN Security Council resolution 2538 (2020) on women in peacekeeping operations.

264. The Heads of State and Government commended the Movement's significant and major contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security under the auspices of the

United Nations. The Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction that the Non-Aligned Countries currently provide more than 88% of peacekeeping personnel in the field and deliver new pledges in areas most needed to make UN Peacekeeping Missions more efficient and effective. They *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning UNPKOs, as follows:

264.1 The Heads of State and Government reiterated that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the UN and that the role of regional arrangements, in that regard, should be in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, and should not in any way substitute the role of the UN, or circumvent the full application of the guiding principles of UNPKOs;

264.2 The Heads of State and Government emphasized that the establishment of any peacekeeping operation or extension of mandate of existing operations should strictly abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and those principles that have evolved to govern such operations and have become basic principles thereof, namely the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate and impartiality. The Heads of State and Government believed that these basic principles that have guided UN peacekeeping operations over the last five decades without controversy still remain relevant and should be preserved. The Heads of State and Government also *emphasized* that the respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of all States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within their domestic jurisdiction should also be upheld in this regard;

264.3 The Heads of State and Government stressed that implementation of all mandated tasks should be supported by a comprehensive peace process provision of adequate resources, based on national ownership and the support of the international community;

264.4 The Heads of State and Government continued to *emphasize* that UN peacekeeping operations should be provided from the outset with political support, full and optimal human, financial and logistical resources, clearly defined and achievable mandates and exit strategies, and that the safety and security of peacekeepers are guaranteed;

264.5 The Heads of State and Government called *upon* the Security Council, while mandating UNPKOs, to authorize optimal troop strengths in order to achieve the mandated tasks. The Heads of State and Government stressed the necessity for the UN to continue to work towards reviewing and improving the PCRS system, taking into account the views of the TPCC's, in light of complex, evolving and multi-dimensional Peacekeeping Operations;

264.6 The Heads of State and Government stressed that UNPKOs should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict, which should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, with other political, social, economic and developmental instruments. They *further stressed* that due consideration should be given by the UN to the manner in which those efforts can be carried out from the early stage of UN engagement in post conflict situations and continue without interruption after the departure of UNPKOs, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace, security as well as sustainable development. In this context, they *stressed* the need to improve synergies between the activities of peacekeeping and peacebuilding to attain the overall objective of sustaining peace;

264.7 The Heads of State and Government, recognizing the surge in peacekeeping needs and complexities, including threats to peacekeeping missions and need for a genuine and concerted response by the entire membership of the UN, in particular the developed countries, *called upon* these countries to participate in and share the burden of UNPKOs;

264.8 The Heads of State and Government emphasized that in the context of the comprehensive approach and the objective of a lasting peace and security, UN peacekeeping

operations should be accompanied by a parallel and inclusive peace process that is well planned and carefully designed, supported by the consent and adherence of the parties concerned. They further emphasized that more effort must be invested in local political solutions to conflict which peacekeeping operations must endeavor to support;

264.9 The Heads of State and Government welcomed Security Council Resolution 2086 of 21 January 2013, which has a particular focus on multidimensional peacekeeping, as an important contribution to the pursuance of a comprehensive, coherent and integrated approach to multidimensional peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

264.10 The Heads of State and Government took *note* of Security Council Resolution 2594 (2021) and recognized the crucial role of peacekeeping missions in creating conditions for stability and lasting peace, and the need for United Nations peacekeeping operations to have integrated strategies that articulate a clear pathway to transition throughout the life cycle of the Missions, in accordance with each peacekeeping mission's mandate, in order to achieve sustainable peace.

264.11 The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* the shared commitment of NAM Members to sound environmental practices and to employing environmentally responsible solutions for all operations and mandate delivery through, inter alia, the deployment of units trained in environmental awareness and Environmental Focal Points to fulfill their role in good environmental stewardship and the provision of capacity and expertise in environmental management, and emphasize on developing specialized training materials for peacekeepers aimed at enhancing environmental awareness and practices at all levels. They further encouraged greater efforts to reduce missions' environmental footprints in the field, including through the use of low and zero emission energy resources, renewable resources, clean technology and green solutions and the elimination of single use plastics where possible and promote use of environmentally friendly material, in order to achieve more efficient use of energy and water, reduce waste production and usage of plastics where applicable, encourage homegrown environmental solutions, and improve the health, safety and security of local communities and United Nations personnel in order to leave a positive legacy in the field. In this regard, they commended the installation of solar panel in the peacekeeping missions by Bangladesh, which is the first ever installment of renewable sources of energy by any T/PCCs.

264.12 The Heads of State and Government *noted* the progress made in the implementation of the multi-year environmental strategy to reduce the environmental footprint of peace operations, and requested the Secretary-General to develop, in consultation with Member States, a way forward to ensure continuity in his efforts after the ending of the strategy in 2023, in accordance with the legislative mandates and particular conditions on the ground and in full compliance with the relevant rules and regulations.

264.13 The Heads of State and Government continued to express NAM's strong concern over the encroachment of the Security Council on issues which exclusively fall within the purview of the C-34, as the only forum mandated by the UN General Assembly to review the whole question of peacekeeping operations.

264.14 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the General Assembly has the primary role within the UN in formulating concepts, policies and budgetary matters related to peacekeeping. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government emphasized that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations is the only UN forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of UNPKOs in all their aspects, and that the role of the Committee continues to be critical in providing strategic recommendations. In this regard, they *welcomed* the revision of the working methods of the C-34 with the objective of having a more strategic, action-oriented C-34 report, which will allow a clear orientation for the Secretariat, and expressed the hope that its recommendations are implemented in spirit

and letter. Further, the Heads of State and Government agreed to continue to promote and safeguard the collective positions and priorities of the Movement on peacekeeping;

264.15 The Heads of State and Government stressed that the UN's engagement in increasingly demanding and complex multidimensional peacekeeping operations should be consistent with the agreed principles, guidelines and terminology governing peacekeeping. They *emphasized* and *reiterated* the importance of consistency in the use of agreed peacekeeping terminology and underlined that any discussion of the above should be done through the inter-governmental process and that only those guidelines and terminology that have been agreed by member states should be implemented;

264.16 The Heads of State and Government stressed that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34) is the only body in charge of the development of concepts, policies, doctrines and strategies in UN peacekeeping operations. They further stressed that only those approaches that have been adopted by member states within the C34 should be implemented. They also *stressed* that policy development in Peacekeeping must be matched with the necessary resources in order to guarantee the effectiveness of Peacekeeping operations.

262.17 On the matter related to caveats, the Heads of State and Government highlighted that any restriction, stipulation, condition, and limitation placed, which have a direct bearing on mandate implementation, performance and limit the Force Commander's ability to employ forces should be treated as Caveats. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government urged contributing countries to refrain from deploying units with caveats and stressed that the UN should not accept any further pledges for deployment with caveats. They highlighted the importance to redouble all efforts to develop a "No National Caveats Policy" culture in the United Nations. They took note that all Caveats, whether declared or undeclared, can and actually do severely impede implementation of a Mission's mandate, put peacekeepers on different levels and place an additional burden on those peacekeepers who do not have any caveats.

264.18 The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the ongoing efforts for development of an Integrated Performance Policy Framework, aimed at addressing the overall performance of all peacekeeping stakeholders, and reiterated that the framework should include accountability tools from the mandate formulation stage. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the periodic exchange between the Secretariat and Member States on this aspect and look forward to its completion.

264.19 The Heads of State and Government stressed the need to ensure that, the means to apply the 10-1-2 principle, including timely medical evacuation and adequate medical facilities, are available throughout the Mission area, before and during deployment. In this regard, they acknowledged the need to review the existing medical capabilities in all Mission areas, in order to meet the medical requirements that are necessary to ensure timely and adequate medical care.

264.20 The Heads of State and Government noted the consultations in different regions of the world, following the establishment of the "High level Independent Panel on Peace Operations" by the United Nations Secretary General in October 2014, and commended the contributions of the Non-Aligned members, in particular Bangladesh, Egypt and Ethiopia, for hosting the regional consultations with the High-Level Panel in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, respectively. The Heads of State and Government also *took note* of the report by the "High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations" and the subsequent implementation report by the Secretary-General. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government recalled the GA Resolution 70/6 and urged the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations emanating from the review process after thorough consultations with member states and due consideration by the relevant bodies, particularly the C-34, in accordance with established procedures and in compliance with their respective purview;

264.21 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the use of force in peacekeeping operations should abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the guiding principles that govern such operations;

264.22 The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the UN Security Council PRST [S/PRST/2021/17] on the theme “Protecting the Protectors: Technology and Peacekeeping” under India’s Presidency of the Council in August 2021. They *emphasized* that peacekeeping operations should harness technology effectively to implement the mandate, protect the vulnerable and ensure the safety and security of Peacekeepers and that the use of technology must uphold the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, namely the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States, and adhere to the fundamental principles of UN peacekeeping, in particular the consent of the host State. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of defining the legal, operational, technical and financial aspects related to the use of modern technology. The Heads of State and Government emphasized that technology, if used within parameters as defined above, can complement the work of the troops on the ground and not substitute them.

264.23 The Heads of State and Government recognized that there is a range of important mandated tasks, including but not limited to, support to political processes, support to the restoration and extension of state authority and protection of civilians. While they stressed that the protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of the host country, the Heads of State and Government acknowledged that the protection of civilians is currently mandated in a number of United Nations peacekeeping missions and reaffirmed their commitment in this regard. The Heads of State and Government, accordingly, *emphasized* that relevant peacekeeping missions with this mandate should conduct their tasks without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the host Government to protect civilians;

264.24 The Heads of State and Government stressed that the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, in particular, with Protection of Civilian mandates should be guided by the principles of the Charter and should not be used as means for Government change and military intervention; rather, any possible assistance requested or accepted by the host state should be provided to develop their security and rule of law institutions, where mandated, enabling them to protect civilians effectively.

264.25 The Heads of State and Government took *note* with appreciation of the measures taken under the five-year global field support strategy to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery in an integrated, accountable and transparent manner and emphasized the continued need for extensive and inclusive consultations by the UN Secretariat with Member States on the implementation of the new service delivery model;

264.26 The Heads of State and Government, while taking note of the efforts exerted by the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Department of Operational Support (DOS), *emphasized* the importance of preserving unity of command in mission at all levels, as well as coherence in policy and strategy, clear command structures in the field and up to, and including, at headquarters. They *stressed* the comparative advantages of Command and Control structures of the UN over other arrangements and called for effective communications by the UN on this subject to countries that have constantly refused to place their troops under UN Command. They also *urged* that, the Command and Control structure should be in accordance with the mandate, and any new mandate should be formulated with the active participation of the TCCs;

264.27 The Heads of State and Government took note of the Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy and emphasized the need to support Troop and Police Contributing Countries in implementing it, duly taking into account national considerations, including but not limited to level of participation and qualification.

264.28 The Heads of State and Government *strongly condemned* the deadliest rebel attacks on the United Nations Peacekeepers in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo which killed 15 Tanzanian soldiers participating in the peace keeping mission with other 43 wounded in December 2017, The Heads of State and Government *highlighted* that this is the worst attack on UN Peacekeepers in the United Nations' recent history and it indicates another enormous sacrifice made by troop contributing countries in the service of global peace. The Heads of State and Government therefore *called* for the implementation of all recommendations made by the UN investigation team that examined the circumstances surrounding the attack. The Heads of State and Government further paid tribute to the 6 fallen peacekeepers from Pakistan who lost their lives due to the hostile attack in March 2022, on a Pakistani aviation helicopter deployed in MONUSCO. The Heads of State and Government also strongly condemned the alarming increase in the number of attacks against peacekeepers, particularly in MINUSCA and MINUSMA, making them the three most challenging UN peacekeeping Missions. The Heads of State and Government paid tribute to the martyred peacekeepers and appreciated the enormous sacrifice made by troop contributing countries in these Missions.

264.29 The Heads of State and Government called *upon* the UN Secretariat and concerned parties to accord the highest priority to the safety and security of UN peacekeepers in the field in light of the worsening security situation prevailing in many field missions. In this context, they *condemned in the strongest terms* the killing, kidnapping and targeted attacks of UN peacekeepers, and all acts of violence against them, *urged* the UN and Host Countries to bring perpetrators to justice, and *stressed* the importance for the United Nations to pursue accountability for crimes against peacekeepers in line with Security Council Resolution 2589 (2021). The Heads of State and Government recalled that the primary responsibility for bringing perpetrators of crimes against peacekeepers to justice rests with host countries, in accordance with their international obligations, and called upon relevant Member States hosting peacekeeping missions to promptly investigate and effectively prosecute those responsible for attacks on United Nations personnel, and to keep the concerned troop - or police-contributing country informed of the progress of such investigations and prosecutions. The Heads of State and Government also called upon the Missions, member states and all stake holders to render all possible support requested or accepted by host states in helping them bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice.

264.30 The Heads of State and Government noted with appreciation the recommendations of the Group of Friends on COVID-19 vaccines for United Nations uniformed personnel, chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco, and donations of vaccines to United Nations peacekeepers made by India which allowed equitable access for all peacekeepers to COVID-19 vaccinations, based on their informed consent, and thus contributed to ensuring their safety and security during the COVID-19 pandemic.

264.31 The Heads of State and Government expressed *grave concern* on the delay in communication of information to the concerned TCCs/PCCs and the repatriation of injured or fallen peacekeepers from the field to their home countries. They *urged* DPO to continue to enhance the procedures pertaining to the communication of information with concerned troop contributing countries on incidents or accidents happening in the field and to proceed swiftly on the repatriation of injured or fallen peacekeepers, without giving priority to financial costs;

264.32 The Heads of State and Government underlined the importance for an effective triangular cooperation between Troop and Police Contributing Countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council, and *noted* with appreciation the recent interest in strengthening this cooperation. The Heads of State and Government strongly *supported* a complete reshuffling of the current modalities of the triangular cooperation in order to make it more result-oriented and beneficial to all. They *reiterated* that effective triangular meetings must take place at a regular basis, with a view to ensuring continuous, substantive,

representative and meaningful dialogue well ahead of mandate renewals, in order to avoid an ad hoc approach in this regard.

264.33 The Heads of State and Government expressed *the view* that further development of the mechanisms, referred to in paragraph 255.32 above, towards achieving peacekeeping objectives should be considered;

264.34 The Heads of State and Government emphasized that enhancing the role of Troop and Police Contributing Countries in all different aspects at all phases of the Peacekeeping process remains a top priority and *underscored* in particular that the experience and expertise of troop contributing countries can be drawn upon when the Security Council implements, extends or adjusts UN peacekeeping mandates. Troop and Police contributing countries are best placed to contribute to an objective assessment of the situation on the ground. In this regard, enhanced and better interaction between Troop and Police Contributing Countries and the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations could also contribute to a more inclusive and substantial consultation and decision-making process.

264.35 The Heads of State and Government emphasized that any invitation by the UN Secretariat to the meetings on establishing a new UN peacekeeping mission or expanding an ongoing UNPKO should be transparent and encompass all current and potential Troop Contributing Countries

264.36 The Heads of State and Government stressed that peacekeepers cannot substitute peacebuilders, and that Peacekeeping efforts should be accompanied by Peacebuilding activities, in such a manner as to facilitate the economic revitalization, development and to enable national capacity building, on the basis of national ownership, to pave the way towards a seamless exit strategy, to prevent recurrence of armed conflicts and to support critical tasks in order to achieve sustainable peace;

264.37 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that peacekeeping remained the most cost-effective tool available to the United Nations for the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security but also *noted* that in the face of the changing global peace and security environment, peacekeeping needed to be strengthened through support for political solutions for durable and sustainable peace. It was reiterated that addressing the root causes of conflict was the best conflict prevention and resolution strategy along with inclusive national ownership and leadership to drive the peace processes;

264.38 The Heads of State and Government called *for* United Nations intensified support for the African Union's operations by ensuring predictable and sustainable funding to AU-led Peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, including support through access to UN assessed contributions. Furthermore, they expressed their support for the ongoing efforts to strengthen the strategic partnership between both Organizations in the area of peacekeeping. In this regard, they welcomed the joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security signed in April 2017;

264.39 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the operationalization of the AU Peace Fund and the appointment of the Board of Trustees, which is a key pillar of financial transparency. They welcomed the significant increase of the contributions to the AU Peace Fund to the highest level in its history, as an illustration of Africa's commitment to financial burden-sharing and ownership of prevention and resolution of conflict in the continent. They also welcomed the signing of a Joint Declaration of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the UN on 6 December 2018;

264.40 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the opening of a United Nations liaison office with the League of Arab States (LAS), and stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between the LAS and the UN in the area of peacekeeping and

peaceful settlement of disputes on the same model as for other regional Organizations; The Heads of State and Government further stressed the importance of strengthening the partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the UN for peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

264.41 The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the efforts undertaken by NAM Members to establish regional cooperation networks to promote collaboration in preparation, financing, equipment, deploying and sustaining in the field of peacekeeping, carried out with the support of the Secretariat through its Light Coordination Mechanism, and welcomed the First Latin American and Caribbean Conference on United Nations Peace Operations that was held in Lima, Peru, in September 2022. The Heads of State and Government encouraged the Secretariat to work with Member States, including interested T/PCCs to continue efforts to promote the establishment of regional cooperation networks in other regions, such as in Asia in 2023.

264.42 The Heads of State and Government remained concerned over the staffing and structure of the Department of Peace Operations and Department of Operational Support whereby NAM Member Countries are insufficiently represented, particularly at senior and professional levels. The Heads of State and Government urged the Secretary-General to further enhance his efforts in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter, the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules and relevant General Assembly resolutions to attain equitable geographical distributions and gender representation at all levels. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government believed that appropriate representation in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and in the field should also take into account the contributions of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), in particular at the professional and leadership level in Headquarters as well as in the field missions;

264.43 The Heads of State and Government underscored the importance of the rapid and effective deployment of the UNPKOs including their reinforcement as necessary. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government stressed the need for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities for any new UN peacekeeping missions or for reinforcing existing UN peacekeeping missions if in crisis. The Heads of State and Government stressed that the development of such mechanisms, including through the development of the Global Field Support Strategy, should be in close consultation with Troop Contributing Countries;

264.44 Recognizing the fact that the lack of welfare measures and recreational opportunities may have detrimental impacts on physical and mental health of the peacekeepers, the Heads of State and Government *stressed* the importance of Member States ensuring that they provide appropriate welfare and recreation facilities to their peacekeepers and, in this regard, highlighted the need to share best practices across Missions and to explore options to further improve the welfare and recreation facilities of the peacekeepers;

264.45 The Heads of State and Government *noted* with concern the state of facilities, including accommodation, particularly in Temporary Operating Bases and Transit Camps, and recognizing that lack of adequate security arrangements and acceptable living and hygiene standards in such bases, including recreational facilities can negatively affect morale and motivation, cause stress and lead to acts of indiscipline and other forms of misconduct, emphasized the need to identify mission specific measures to address the issue, including the duration of deployment of such bases;

264.46 The Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of creating an enabling environment for the deployment of uniformed women peacekeepers in the field, including through addressing accommodation requirements for their deployment and creating platforms for sharing best practices.

264.47 The Heads of State and Government expressed concern at the significant reduction of the UN Peacekeeping budget in the context of consolidation for the demand for

Peacekeeping Operations. They *reaffirmed* that the funding of UNPKOs through voluntary contributions should not influence the UN Security Council decisions to establish UNPKOs or affect their mandates;

264.48 The Heads of State and Government reiterated the importance of avoiding the late settlement of payments to Troop and Police Contributing Countries, most of which are developing countries, which may adversely affect UN peacekeeping capacity, and in this regard welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to return cash assets in closed peacekeeping missions to member states and pay all outstanding claims of Troop and Police Contributing Countries by 31 March 2023.

264.49 The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of updating financial information available to Member States, including the status of reimbursements and COE claims. In this regard, they also highlighted the need to have real-time status of reimbursements and COE claims to Member States in the existing Status of Contribution online portal;

264.50 The Heads of State and Government stressed the need to review the existing methodology for reimbursements, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/261, as related to rotations. They noted that the reimbursement to Troop Contributing Countries is arbitrarily placed as the last in the list of priorities, after staff salaries and settlements of vendors, if funds are available. They emphasized that there is a requirement to review the reimbursement framework to ensure that legal equivalence of contracts is firmly established, be it staff contracts, commercial agreements with vendors or MOUs with troop contributing countries. The Heads of State and Government commended, in this regard, the role that troop-contributing countries have been playing, in spite of delayed reimbursements;

264.51 The Heads of State and Government expressed serious concern over the significant amount of outstanding reimbursement that the UN currently owes to Troop Contributing and Police-Contributing Countries, and noted that there are still contributors that have not yet been reimbursed for their participation in various ongoing Missions and closed Missions, going back a number of decades, in violation of the spirit of reimbursement agreement;

264.52 The Heads of State and Government noted the outcome of the 2023 session of the UN Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) working group. They *stressed* the need and reiterated the call for the increase in reimbursement rates of troop cost, daily allowance, self-sustainment, welfare and recreation, medical services mission factors and COE on the basis of actual expenses and investments by Troop Contributing Countries. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government also noted the issuance of the revised Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual (A/72/288) and strongly encourage the COE Working Group to review its modalities including its working methods;

264.53 Duly noting the existing threat environment and persistent stress on TCCs/PCCs operating in asymmetric settings, the Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the need to revise the policy on rotations, with a view to ensure that troop-contributing and police-contributing countries have the final decision for undertaking the rotation either annually or bi-annually. They emphasized that the revised policy should take into account all matters related to the movement of troops, including but not limited to intra and inter Mission transportation, overlap period during handing taking over, among others.

264.54 The Heads of State and Government commended the ongoing work of the NAM Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations in coordinating issues of common concern to the Movement in the field of peacekeeping and Special Political Mission. They *expressed* appreciation to Morocco for its dedicated efforts and leadership as Coordinator of the Working Group; recognized that this allowed the Movement to have a stronger position during the negotiations; and *requested* it to maintain its role during the next sessions of the

COE working group, including through proposing common issue papers. Moreover, they *encouraged* all NAM delegations to continue to actively participate in the working group with a view to promote and achieve the objectives of the Movement, in particular the Troop Contributing Countries, in the work of the Special committee on Peacekeeping Operations, as well as in all other fora dedicated to peacekeeping and Special Political Missions;

264.55 The Heads of State and Government noted the last review of the troop reimbursement rates in the 2022, and express concern that this has not adequately taken into account the financial burden on Troop Contributing Countries, which could jeopardize the sustainability of participation in peacekeeping operations. They *look forward* to the start of the work of the next cycle of the senior advisory group, and urged that this will lead to an adequate increase in troop cost;

264.56 The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need for ensuring payment of timely and adequate compensation for death and disabilities of peacekeepers while serving in UN Field Missions;

264.57 The Heads of State and Government called *upon* the United Nations to develop specific mechanisms or measures with regard to the issue of UN personnel missing in action in the performance of their duties;

264.58 The Heads of State and Government stressed *again* that all UN Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without condition. They *reaffirmed* the obligation of Member States, under article 17 of the UN Charter, to bear their expenses to the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibility of the Permanent Members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963;

264.59 The Heads of State and Government reemphasized the critical importance of timely, efficient, transparent and cost-effective procurement of goods and services in support of UNPKOs, and *reiterated* the view that there is a need to ensure greater UN procurement from Non-Aligned Countries;

264.60 The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the outstanding contribution and sacrifices of peacekeepers and *stressed* that all UN peacekeeping personnel perform their duties in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality, and integrity of the UN. They *stressed* the importance of maintaining a policy of zero tolerance on all forms of misconduct and condemned all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by UN personnel in peacekeeping operations, which undermine the values and principles of the United Nations and stain the Organization's image. They reaffirmed that investigation and prosecution should lie within the purview of national jurisdictions of the concerned States. They expressed that the safety and security of the UN Missions personnel remains a major concern for the Troop and Police Contributing Countries, which deserves greater attention from the Secretariat, in view of the growing casualties in Missions.

264.61 The Heads of State and Government emphasized that due process and national requirements must always be observed during investigations of misconduct. They further *stressed* that the UN should ensure that steps are taken to restore the image and credibility of any UN peacekeeping mission, Troop Contributing Countries or UN peacekeeping personnel when allegations of misconduct are ultimately found to be unsubstantiated.

264.62 The Heads of State and Government noted the importance of security sector reform (SSR) among other important components in the context of UN peacekeeping and post conflict situations, and *stressed* that SSR should be integrated in the broad framework of UN Rule of Law activities, thus ensuring that SSR activities and structures are not duplicating the work carried out in the Rule of Law area. They *reaffirmed* that the development of a UN approach to SSR must take place within the General Assembly, and

in accordance with the principle of national ownership, and *stressed* that the formulation of strategies to SSR, including its scope and mandate, should be carried out through the intergovernmental process and must be context-specific;

264.63 The Heads of State and Government emphasized that SSR should be undertaken at the request of the country concerned, and underlined the primary responsibility and the sovereign right of the country concerned in determining its national priorities in this regard.

265. The Heads of State and Government deeply regretted the lack of consensus in the 2022 substantive session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which enables the Committee to give guidance and policy with regard to the whole aspects of peacekeeping operations, mainly due to different positions of NAM member states. The Heads of State and Government welcomed efforts contributed by Member States to the Committee of C34 for reaching a consensus on the 2023 final report of C34 and noted the decision—of the Committee on Peacekeeping to hold an inter-sessional discussion in 2023, facilitated by the Chair of the Working Group of the Whole. The Heads of State and Government stressed the necessity to continue improving the working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, related to updates to the General Context sections of its annual report, to ensure that its work be carried out in a more efficient and transparent manner.

266. The Heads of State and Government, *deeply concerned* on the high level of casualties among Peacekeepers in recent years, *stressed* the necessity for the UN to develop effective Safety and Security arrangements for Peacekeepers. The Heads of State and Government, mindful of the risks inherent in peacekeeping, *reserved* their most profound thoughts and respect for those UN peacekeepers that have lost their lives while in the service of peace. They *emphasized* that their sacrifice should stand as an enduring testimony of the unique work carried out by them in favor of peace and stability. They *further emphasized* the importance of 29 May, the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, as providing an occasion to pay tribute on an annual basis at the UN Memorial for Peacekeepers to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this context, they *welcomed* the recommendation by the Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations for the establishment of the Memorial Wall at a prominent place at the UN headquarters and appreciated the initiative being taken by India, along with Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda and Zambia, and supported by other NAM Member States to pilot the efforts for early implementation of the recommendation.

267. The Heads of State and Government urged the United Nations Secretariat to include troop-contributing and police-contributing countries and interested Member States in the development of a comprehensive United Nations counter improvised explosive device measures and threat mitigation strategy. Adequate force protection equipment, including counter IED threat mitigation equipment, and clear command and control arrangements, must be equally addressed as priorities for the safety and security of peacekeepers.

268. The Heads of State and Government noted with concern the increased misinformation and disinformation campaigns against Peacekeeping Missions and Peacekeepers and recognizing the danger these pose to the safety and Security of Peacekeepers, urged the Secretariat and Peacekeeping Missions to strengthen their capacities and capabilities to counter misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, including by developing and executing their strategic communication plans.

269. Taking note that a significant number of casualties are related to attacks on camps or positions, the Heads of State and Government urged the United Nations Secretariat to take adequate force protection measures to improve the physical security infrastructure of camps, prior and throughout deployment, including for temporary and remote deployments, despite financial constraints.

270. The Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of balanced and transparent recruiting of staff in the UN Secretariat and in the field, in accordance with the UN Charter, the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions. They called upon the UN Secretariat to take concrete measures in this regard and reiterated that selection and employment must be on the basis of highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while maintaining geographical representation, diversity, gender parity and troop contribution to peace operations.

271. The Heads of State and Government noted with concern the current practices of allocating certain staff positions in UN Secretariat and Field Missions to a particular Member State or regional group. In this regard, they called on the UN Secretariat to ensure that all recruitment at the Secretariat and in the field, is carried out in a manner that ensures fair and balanced representation of TCCs, without prejudice to any Member State or regional group.

272. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their serious concern over the significant increase of attacks targeting peacekeepers and took note of the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard, in particular the report on “Improving Security of the UN Peacekeepers” (Cruz Report) and its subsequent action plan presented by the Secretariat, and called for a common approach between the Secretariat, Troop and Police Contributing Countries and all other relevant stakeholders for a long-term strategy in this regard, which should be discussed within the context of the C-34 or any other relevant intergovernmental forum.

273. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the deployment of foreign military contingents from either individual States or regional arrangements alongside the United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this context, they *emphasized* their concerns regarding the need for comprehensive mandates that clearly define the modalities of withdrawal and reconfiguration, in order to improve cooperation and coordination with the UN, and to avoid any possible negative impact on the safety and security of UN peacekeepers.

274. The Heads of State and Government called *upon* the Secretary-General, to fully take into account the views of the Non-Aligned Movement, including the submissions made on 21 November 2014 and on 19 March 2015, while considering the recommendations of the “High level Independent Panel on Peace Operations”.

275. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the report of the Secretary-General and expressed their support to the vision for reforming the peace and security pillar of the United Nations while ensuring accountability and transparency, with due regard to the promotion of the principle of equitable geographical representation. It was reiterated that any reform effort should not seek to change established mandates, functions or funding sources of the peace and security pillar, and that it shall be conducted in consultation with Member States of the Organization. In this regard, the report of the Secretary-General would be awaited to provide detailed information on the proposed structure, functions and staffing requirements for the consideration of the General Assembly in accordance with established procedures.

Disarmament and International Security

276. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* and reiterated the long-standing principled positions of the Movement on disarmament and international security, including the decisions taken at the XII Summit in Durban in 1998 the XIII Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 2003, the XIV Summit in Havana in 2006, the XV Summit in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2009, the XVI Summit in Tehran in 2012, the XVII Summit in Island of Margarita in 2016, the XVIII Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2019, the XIII Ministerial Conference in Cartagena in 2000, the XIV Ministerial Conference in Durban in 2004, the Ministerial Meeting held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in 2006, the XV Ministerial Conference held in Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran, in 2008, and the XVI Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Non- Aligned Movement held in Bali, Indonesia, in May 2011, the XVII Ministerial Conference held in Algiers, Algeria in 2014, and the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2018, Ministerial

Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in 2019 and, the Ministerial Meeting held in UNHQ, New York, in 2022.

277. The Heads of State and Government remained gravely concerned at the continuous and progressive erosion of multilateralism in the field of arms regulation, non-proliferation, and disarmament, and are determined to reaffirm multilateralism as the core principle in negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation with a view to maintaining and strengthening universal norms.

278. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their continued concern over the current difficult and complex situation in the field of disarmament and international security. In this regard, they called for renewed efforts, especially by Nuclear-Weapon States (NWSs), to resolve the current impasse in achieving nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects.

279. The Heads of State and Government expressed their deepest concern over the immediate, indiscriminate, and massive death and destruction caused by any nuclear weapon detonation and its long-term catastrophic consequences on human health, environment, and other vital economic resources, thus endangering the life of present and future generations. They reiterated further their deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and in this context reaffirmed the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law. They stressed the need to address this issue in the context of the efforts aimed at the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world and in this regard, they noted continuing relevant international efforts, including the four International Conferences on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons, held respectively in Norway in 2013, in Mexico in 2014 and in Austria in 2014 and 2022, and the important role of the humanitarian initiative in promoting progress towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. They *reiterated* the call in General Assembly Resolution 78/27 for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons.

280. Reaffirming the absolute validity of multilateral diplomacy in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, the Heads of State and Government reiterated their determination to promote multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, they *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 77/48 on Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

281. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and in this context, underlined that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the UN Charter, provide the only sustainable method of addressing disarmament and international security issues.

282. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the Movement's principled positions on nuclear disarmament, which remains its highest priority, and on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. They *stressed* the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. They expressed concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and of their possible use or threat of use.

283. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their deep concern over the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress by the Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals in accordance with their relevant multilateral legal obligations. They reaffirmed the importance of the unanimous conclusion of the ICJ that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. They called upon the NWS to fulfill their relevant multilateral legal obligations on nuclear disarmament and to implement the unequivocal undertaking they

provided in 2000 and further reiterated in 2010 so as to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons. They emphasized, in this regard, the urgent need to commence and to bring to a conclusion negotiation on comprehensive and complete nuclear disarmament without any further delay.

284. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged *the* significant contribution towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament made by NAM Member and Observer States, including through the voluntary renunciation of the possession of nuclear weapons by Belarus, Kazakhstan, South Africa and Ukraine.

285. The Heads of State and Government, while noting the statements by the NWS, including the Joint Statement of the Leaders of the Five Nuclear-Weapon States on Preventing Nuclear War and avoiding Arms Races of the 3rd of January 2022, of their intention to pursue actions in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, *reaffirmed* the need for urgent concrete actions by the NWS to achieve this goal in accordance with their nuclear disarmament legal obligations and commitments. They *reaffirmed* the importance of the application of the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability by NWS in all measures related to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations.

286. The Heads of State and Government remained deeply concerned about the security doctrines of the NWS, including the “NATO Alliance Strategic Concept”, which not only sets out rationales for the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, but also maintains unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies, including through nuclear weapons sharing. They therefore strongly called upon them to exclude completely the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from their military and security doctrines.

287. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated*, with concern, that improvements in existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of nuclear weapons as provided for in the military doctrines of the Nuclear Weapons States, including the United States Nuclear Posture Review, violate their legal obligations on nuclear disarmament, as well as the commitments made to diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their military and security policies and contravene the negative security assurances provided by the NWS. They *stressed* once again that these improvements as well as the development of new types of such weapons violate also the commitments undertaken at the time of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and at the NPT Review Conferences by the NWS.

288. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the multilateral efforts towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Moreover, they took note of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on 22 January 2021, the convening of its First Meeting of States Parties on 21-23 June 2022, which adopted a declaration and an action plan, and its Second Meeting of States Parties on 27 November-1 December 2023. It is hoped that the Treaty would contribute to furthering the agreed global objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. NAM States Parties and signatories to the TPNW are fully committed to its implementation and are engaged constructively in preparation for the Third Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

289. The Heads of State and Government emphasized that progress in nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects is essential to strengthening international peace and security. They *stressed* the importance of ensuring that efforts aimed at nuclear non-proliferation are parallel to simultaneous efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament. They *reaffirmed* that efforts toward nuclear disarmament global and regional approaches and confidence building measures complement each other and should, wherever possible, be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security. Nevertheless, they *stressed* that nuclear disarmament, as the highest priority established by SSOD-I and as a multilateral legal obligation, should not be made conditional on confidence

building measures or other disarmament efforts. They also underlined that nuclear risk reduction measures cannot be a substitute for effective measures on nuclear disarmament.

290. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance and the relevance of the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) as the sole specialized, deliberative body within the UN multilateral disarmament machinery and reiterated their full support for its work. They commended the UNDC for the successful adoption of the consensus recommendations on “Practical Confidence-Building Measures in the Field of Conventional Weapons” by the Commission in 2023. They *expressed* regret that since 2000 the UNDC was unable to reach agreement on the “Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons” due to the lack of political will and inflexible positions of the Nuclear-Weapons States, despite NAM’s constructive role and concrete proposals throughout the deliberations. The Heads of State and Government, while welcoming the resumption of the formal annual sessions of the UNDC in 2022 and its adoption of the “*Recommendations to promote the practical implementation of the TCBMs in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space in conformity with the recommendations set out in the report of the GGE on this issue (A/68/189)*”, regretted that at the end of its three years cycle in 2023 the UNDC was unable again to reach agreement on the other very important agenda item “*Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons*”. They further called upon UN Member States, in particular the NWS, to display the necessary political will and flexibility, in order to enable the Commission to agree on recommendations in this regard.

291. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, and reiterated their call to the CD to agree on a balanced and comprehensive program of work by, inter alia, establishing an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament as soon as possible and as the highest priority. They *emphasized* the necessity to start negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, without further delay, on further effective nuclear disarmament measures, in particular a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention that sets, inter alia, a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time.

292. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation for the efforts undertaken, in particular by those representatives of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement who served as the Presidents of the CD for the commencement of its substantive work, including negotiations. They recognized the constructive engagement and leadership of Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Mexico, Syria, Colombia, Cuba and Ecuador, and noted the various proposals on the program of Work of the CD as contained in the documents CD/1864, a decision adopted by CD on 29 May 2009 but not implemented, CD/1933/Rev.1, CD/1952, CD/1955, CD/1956/Rev.1, CD/2014, CD/2022, CD/2128, CD/2137/AddL, and CD/2229, which were presented successively by the aforementioned Presidents by NAM Member States between 2009 to 2023 sessions. They also noted positively during the Presidency of Colombia the adoption of the decision on the programme of work of the CD as contained in the document CD/2229 in 2022. They called on the CD to agree by consensus on a balanced and comprehensive programme of work without any further delay taking into account the security interests of all States. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of the principle contained in the final document of the SSOD-I that “The adoption of disarmament measures should take place in such an equitable and balanced manner as to ensure the right of each State to security and to ensure that no individual State or group of States may obtain advantages over others at any stage”. They agreed to continue coordination of efforts at the NAM Member States of G21 in Geneva.

293. The Heads of State and Government *called* for the urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on further effective nuclear disarmament measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons, including, in particular, on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. They further *called* for urgent compliance with legal obligations and the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament.

294. The Heads of State and Government commended the efforts of NAM Member States in advancing the goal of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, they reiterated the importance of the convening, in New York, on a date to be decided later, and pursuant to General Assembly resolution (78/27), a United Nations High-Level International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, in follow-up to the first-ever High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament held on 26 September 2013, to review the progress made in this regard. They stressed the need to ensure the success of the Conference in reaching a substantive outcome. The Heads of State and Government expressed their hope that this International Conference can contribute to the goal of a nuclear weapon free world.

295. The Heads of State and Government welcomed UN annual meetings and activities for the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September since 2014, as outlined in resolution 68/32. They *invited* Member States, the UN system and the civil society, including non-governmental organizations, academia, parliamentarians, the mass media and individuals, to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons through all means of educational and public awareness-raising activities. They also *expressed* their commitment to work together with the objective that the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons becomes one of the effective ways to focus international public attention on the dangers of nuclear weapons, the necessity for their total elimination and the advantages of nuclear disarmament for development as well as for international peace and security.

296. Moreover, the Heads of State and Government underlined the importance of General Assembly resolutions 68/32, 69/58, 70/34, 71/71, 72/251, 73/40, 74/54, 75/45, 76/36, 77/47 and 78/27 as a roadmap on nuclear disarmament and accordingly stressed the need for an active participation of NAM Member States in all activities related to their implementation, including enhancing public awareness and education on this issue. They commended all efforts aiming at promoting the implementation of these resolutions, including those undertaken by the Group of 21 in the Conference on Disarmament and the NAM Chapter in Vienna.

297. The Heads of State and Government called for further international, regional and national efforts aimed at advancing the goal of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, they noted with appreciation the efforts of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and also noted the adoption of a "Special Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament" at its Second Summit, held in Havana, Cuba, on 28 and 29 January 2014, a "Special Declaration on the Urgent Need for a Nuclear Weapon Free World" at its Third Summit, held in Belen, Costa Rica, on 27 and 28 January 2015, a "Special Declaration on the commitment to advance in the multilateral negotiations on Nuclear Disarmament", at its Fourth Summit, held in Quito, Ecuador, on 27 January 2016, a "Special Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament" at its Fifth Summit, held in the Dominican Republic, on 25 January 2017 and further noted the adoption of a "Special Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament", at its Seventh Summit, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 24 January 2023.

298. The Heads of State and Government, in reiterating their support for a comprehensive consideration of the UN disarmament agenda and the ways and means of revitalizing and enhancing the disarmament machinery, *reaffirmed* that a Fourth Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV) remains the most appropriate forum for furthering the priorities established by SSOD-I, including nuclear disarmament as the highest priority for the international community. In this context, while recalling the UNGA resolutions 65/66, 72/49 and 73/42 and its decision 70/551 entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament", they welcomed the successful outcome of the Open-Ended Working Group, convened by resolution 65/66 of the General Assembly and its decision 70/551, which held its substantive sessions in 2016 and 2017, under the able Chairmanship of Ecuador, adopting by consensus recommendations for objectives and agenda for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-IV). They further *welcomed* the endorsement, by the Assembly, of the report of the Open-Ended Working

Group and the substantive recommendations contained therein, and *stressed* the importance of continuing consultations on the next steps for convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament.

299. The Heads of State and Government, while recalling the vital importance of the principles of equitable geographic representation and gender balance, *called for* the fair application of these principles in the appointment and recruitment to leadership, senior and managerial positions in the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Heads of State and Government called *also for* transparency and balanced geographical representation in the composition of the membership of the Groups of Governmental Experts established in the field of disarmament and international security. They also *underlined* the importance of transparency and openness of the work of such groups.

300. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they *called for* the early commencement of negotiations on effective, universal, unconditional, non-discriminatory, irrevocable and legally binding security assurances to all NNWS by all the nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under all circumstances as a matter of high priority. They *expressed* concern that despite long-standing requests by NNWS to receive such legally binding universal assurances, no tangible progress has been achieved in this regard. They *noted* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 78/18 on the Conclusion of Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

301. The Heads of State and Government stressed the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, especially by all NWS which, *inter alia*, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, they expressed their concern at the decision of the United States to not seek ratification of the CTBT as announced in its 2018 Nuclear Posture Review, taking into account the special responsibility of NWS for the realization of the entry into force of the CTBT. They *reiterated* that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all States signatories, especially the NWS, to nuclear disarmament would be essential. In this context, the ratifications of the CTBT by Comoros, Cuba, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Tuvalu were welcomed.

302. The Heads of State and Government recalled the commitments made towards the full implementation of the New START Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as the need for follow-up measures in order to achieve deeper reductions in their nuclear arsenals. They *stressed* that reductions in deployments and in operational status, although they may contribute to risk reduction, cannot substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons. In this context, they *called on* the United States and the Russian Federation to apply the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability to such cuts, to further reduce their nuclear arsenals, both warheads and delivery systems, thus contributing to the fulfillment of their nuclear disarmament obligations and facilitating the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons at the earliest date.

303. The Heads of State and Government took *note of* the successful completion of the commitments, by the Russian Federation and the United States, under the New START treaty, and the extension of the Treaty until 2026. They *called for* full and effective implementation of the Treaty, as well as the renewal of the commitments agreed within its framework. Nonetheless, they expressed their grave concern over the US Nuclear Posture Review and its National Security Strategy, which goes against legal obligations and undertakings to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and threatens international peace and security. They emphasized the importance of continuing strategic dialogue and expressed their concern that domestic commitments to nuclear modernization strongly undermine the actual impact of any reductions envisaged in bilateral nuclear disarmament and arms-control treaties such as the New

START Treaty, with the understanding that “arms control” does not substitute nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments.

304. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* further the commitments of all states to the universally agreed principles governing the activities related to the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, on equal access to outer space for all without discrimination, including non-discrimination cooperation referred to in this domain in accordance with the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the interest of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries (1996 Declaration) contained in UN General Assembly Resolution 51/122.

305. The Heads of State and Government continued to be concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense systems and the threat of weaponization of outer space which have, inter alia, contributed to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to the strengthening of international security. The abrogation of the ABM Treaty brought new challenges to international peace and stability and the prevention of an arms race in outer space. They *remained* seriously concerned at the negative security consequences of the deployment of strategic missile defence systems which could trigger an arms race and lead to the further development of advanced missile systems and an increase in the number of nuclear weapons.

306. The Heads of State and Government recognized the common interest of all humankind and the inalienable, legitimate, sovereign rights of all States in the exploration and use of outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes, and reconfirmed their stand to oppose and reject any act denying or violating it and emphasized that prevention of an arms race in outer space, including a ban to deploy or use weapons therein, would avert a grave danger for international peace and security. They further emphasized the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space. They further confirmed that outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

307. The Heads of State and Government welcomed General Assembly resolutions 78/19 on “Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space” and 78/21 on “No First Placement of Weapons in Outer Space”, both of which reaffirm the importance and urgency of the objective of preventing an arms race in outer space and the willingness of all States to contribute to reaching this common goals and recognized that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee prevention of an arms race in outer space and that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime, as well as resolution 78/52 on “Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities”, which reaffirms that “preventing an arms race in outer space is in the interest of maintaining international peace and security.”

308. The Heads of State and Government *rejected* the declaration by the United States in 2018 that “Space is a war-fighting domain” or “the next battle field” and accordingly reemphasized the urgent need for the commencement of substantive work in the CD, inter alia, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including through the establishment of an ad hoc committee under this agenda item as early as possible, taking note of a draft treaty on the “Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects” (PPWT), presented jointly by Russia and China in the Conference on Disarmament on 12 February 2008 and updated in 2014. They welcomed the valuable progress made through the work of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/250 and regretted that consensus on the draft final report of the GGE was blocked by one Member, noting that it could have represented a good basis for further negotiations towards adopting an international legally binding instrument. They took note of the establishment of the new GGE pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 77/250, to consider and make recommendations on substantial elements of an international legally binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including, inter alia, on the prevention of the placement of weapons in

outer space; and called on the new GGE to take into consideration the deliberations taken place in the 2018/2019 GGE, and its documents, including inter alia, the Working Papers and the draft Final Report. The Heads of State and Government further noted the establishment and the discussions, which took place within the Open-Ended Working Group on Reducing Space Threats through norms, rules, and principles of responsible behavior and emphasized the importance of reaching a consensual outcome document, taking into account the concerns of all Member States.

309. Noting the inclusion of “Preparation of recommendations to promote the practical implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space, in accordance with the recommendations set out in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities” in the agenda of the UNDC. The Heads of State and Government underscored that while voluntary TCBMs may partially contribute to reducing mistrust and enhancing the safety of outer space operations in the short-term, it cannot represent a substitute for the early conclusion of a legally-binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, including the prohibition of the placement of any weapons in outer space, as well as the threat or use of force against outer space objects. They further urged all Member States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the sustainability of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. They underlined the importance of, and called for, the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes including by paying particular attention to the benefit and the interests of developing countries.

310. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the growing scope and significance of international cooperation among states and between states and international organizations in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and underlined the necessity and the significance of further strengthening international cooperation in order to reach broad and efficient collaboration in this field for the mutual benefit and in the interest of all parties involved, in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 51/122 in 1996 entitled “ Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the interest of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries”.

311. The Heads of State and Government strongly *urged* States to refrain from any unilateral coercive measures which are in contravention of international law that could impede or prevent space activities for peaceful purposes by developing countries and the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the principles and treaties governing international space law.

312. The Heads of State and Government underscored that activities by constellations in the territory of any State must respect local landing rights as well as the sovereignty of States. In this regard, they recalled that States having private mega-constellations under their jurisdiction or control are responsible for authorizing and supervising these activities and should ensure their compliance with the international law.

313. The Heads of State and Government, while reaffirming the Declaration on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) of the 17th Ministerial Conference of NAM held in Algeria in May 2014, and noting that considerable progress has been made in developing and applying the latest ICTs; *expressed concern* that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security, and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields. They also noted with concern cases of illegal use of new ICTs to the detriment of Members States of the Movement, and expressed strong rejection to those violations. In this regard and while taking into account the ongoing efforts within the United Nations, they *called upon* Member States to further promote at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats from the malicious use of ICTs, as well as possible strategies to address these threats. They *emphasized* that ICTs should be utilized by Member States in a manner consistent with international law and the UN Charter. They emphasized the

need to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment. They called for the intensification of efforts towards safeguarding cyberspace from becoming an arena of conflict, and ensuring instead the exclusive peaceful uses which would enable the full realization of the potential of ICTs for contributing to social and economic development. They stressed that the development of any international legally binding framework to address issues related to the use of ICTs with implications on international peace and security should take into account the concerns and interests of all States and be based on consensus and pursued within the UN framework with the active and equal participation of all States. They highlighted the central role of governments in areas related to public policy aspects of ICT security.

314. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security established by General Assembly resolution 73/27, which was the first inclusive mechanism established within the United Nations with the participation of all Member States, acting on the basis of consensus. They noted the process of the adoption of the 2021 consensus final report of the OEWG and encouraged Member States to be guided in their use of ICTs by the 2021 report. They also noted the 2021 report of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security. They reiterated their determination for the success of the OEWG on the security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025 established by General Assembly resolution 75/240, currently the only inclusive mechanism, taking into account concerns and interests of all States, and be based on consensus, and pursued within the UN with the active and equal participation of all States, to continue, as a priority, to further develop the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States and the ways for their implementation and, if necessary, to introduce changes to them or elaborate additional rules of behaviour; to consider initiatives of States aimed at ensuring security in the use of information and communications technologies; to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, regular institutional dialogue with the broad participation of States; to continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security, inter alia, data security, and possible cooperative measures to prevent and counter such threats, and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States, as well as confidence-building measures and capacity-building; and to submit, for adoption by consensus, annual progress reports and a final report on the results of its work to the General Assembly at its eightieth session. They further noted the adoption of the OEWG's first and second annual progress reports by consensus and strongly encouraged reaching consensus through a negotiation process in considering, in accordance with relevant recommendations in the first two Annual Progress Reports, the remaining outstanding issues, including those in the Chair's Summary attached to the Final Substantive Reports of the 2019-2021 OEWG.

315. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the Declaration on Information and Communication Technologies of the 17th Ministerial Conference of NAM held in Algeria, and reiterated the importance of ensuring that the use of such technologies is fully in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, International Law and, especially, the principles of sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs and the well-established principle of peaceful coexistence among States.

316. The Heads of State and Government *called for* the intensification of efforts towards safeguarding cyberspace from becoming an arena of conflict and ensuring instead the exclusive peaceful uses which would enable the full realization of the potential of ICTs for contributing to social and economic development, and in this regard, they underscored the importance of avoiding and refraining from taking any unilateral measures not in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law that impedes the full achievement of the development of affected countries and hinders their well-being, international cooperation and technology transfer.

317. The Heads of State and Government remained *convinced* of the need for a multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive, transparent and non-discriminatory approach toward the issue of missiles in all its aspects as a contribution to international peace and security. They expressed their support for efforts to be continued within the UN to explore further the issue of missiles in all its aspects. In this regard, they *emphasized* the contribution of peaceful uses of space technologies, including space launch vehicle technologies, to human advancement, such as for telecommunications and data gathering on natural disasters. They also *emphasized* the need to keep the issue of missiles in all its aspects on the agenda of the UN General Assembly and *welcomed* that the Panel of Governmental Experts established in accordance with Resolution 59/67 successfully concluded its work in 2008 and submitted its report to the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly. While welcoming the adoption of the UNGA decision 77/515 on “Missiles”, they encouraged follow up efforts to further examine the elements contained in the conclusions of the Secretary-General’s Report A/63/176. Pending the achievement of such a universal approach related to delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction, any initiative to address these concerns effectively and in a sustainable and comprehensive manner should be through an inclusive process of negotiations in a forum where all States could participate as equals. They *stressed* the importance of the security concerns of all States at regional and global levels in any approach to the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

318. The Heads of State and Government believed that the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free zones (NWFZs) created by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba, the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaty as well as Mongolia’s Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Status are positive steps and important measures towards strengthening global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. They *reiterated* that in the context of NWFZs, it is essential that NWS should provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zone. They *urged* States to conclude agreements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned with a view to establishing new NWFZs in regions where they do not exist, including in the Middle East, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I) and the Principles and Guidelines adopted by the UN Disarmament Commission in 1999. They also *called upon* all the nuclear-weapon States to ratify related protocols to all treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, withdraw any reservations or interpretative declarations incompatible with their object and purpose, and respect the denuclearization status of these zones.

319. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the anniversaries of all treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones. In this regard, they welcomed the 56th anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which created the first nuclear-weapon-free zone established in the world and recognized its contributions to the cause of disarmament and non-proliferation. Similarly, they welcomed the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty) on 27 March 2022, and recognized the importance of its full and effective implementation to preserve the Southeast Asian region as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Likewise, they welcomed the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty of Pelindaba, establishing an African nuclear-weapon-free zone, and recognized its important contribution in promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. They equally recognized the role of all treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in promoting the use of nuclear sciences and technology for peaceful purposes.

320. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the 25th Anniversary of the declaration of Mongolia’s nuclear-weapon-free status on 25 September 2017 and commended Mongolia’s efforts towards a world free of nuclear weapons. They also urged the convening of the Fourth Conference of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and Mongolia, which was originally planned to be held in New York, in April 2020, but subsequently postponed until the UN General Assembly decides otherwise. They also welcomed numerous informal preparatory meetings convened by Mongolia during the 2018-2022 period. The Heads of State and Government called on the States parties and signatories to those Treaties to implement further ways and means of co-operation among

themselves, their treaty agencies and other interested States. They *expressed* their support for Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status and its policy aimed at institutionalizing that status.

321. The Heads of State and Government reiterated that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security and contribute to the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

322. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their full support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. As a priority step to this end, they *reaffirmed* the need for the speedy establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East in accordance with the Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and paragraph 14 of the Security Council Resolution 687 (1991) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions. They called upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the fulfillment of the proposal initiated by Iran and co-sponsored by Egypt in 1974 for the establishment of such a zone. Pending its establishment, they *demand*ed on Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons. The Heads of State and Government of NAM State Parties to NPT called on Israel to accede to the NPT without precondition and further delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) full-scope safeguards according to Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) and to conduct its nuclear related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime. They called for the earliest implementation of relevant IAEA resolutions on "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East". They *expressed* great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighboring and other States, and *condemned* Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. In this context they also *condemned* the statement made by the then Prime Minister of Israel on 11 December 2006, related to the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel and the announcement made by an Israeli Minister regarding the use of nuclear weapons against Gaza. They *urged* the continued consideration of the issue of Israeli nuclear capabilities in the context of the IAEA, including at the General Conference and its call for the implementation of the resolution titled "Israeli Nuclear Capabilities" issued by the General Conference in 2009. They were of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons, which allow one party to threaten its neighbors, and the region. They also *called for* the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel. In this regard, they *expressed* their serious concern over the continuing development whereby Israeli scientists are provided access to the nuclear facilities of one NWS. This development will have potentially serious negative implications on security in the region as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.

323. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of the adoption of UN General Assembly decision 73/546, entitled "Convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction". In this regard, NAM *welcomed* the convening of the First Session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons under the Presidency of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the adoption of a Political Declaration, and *also welcomed* the convening of the Second Session of the Conference under the Presidency of the State of Kuwait and its outcomes, including inter alia the adoption of the rules of procedure and establishing an informal working committee and the Third Session under the Presidency of the Republic of Lebanon and the adoption of its report and the Fourth Session on 15-19 November 2023 under the Presidency of the State of Libya and the adoption of its report. NAM continues to call upon all States of the region, without exception, to actively participate in this Conference and negotiate in good faith and bring to a conclusion a legally binding Treaty on the establishment of the Zone. NAM States Parties to the NPT also stressed that the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the NPT, as well as other relevant decisions on the subject, adopted within the context of the Review Conferences, remain valid until the

objective of the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other WMD in the Middle East is achieved and that the implementation of decision 73/546 is without prejudice to the validity of the aforesaid resolution and decisions and shall not also be construed as their replacement.

324. The Heads of State and Government took into consideration the draft resolution tabled by the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Arab Group, before the Security Council on 29 December 2003 on the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. They *welcomed* the initiative presented in 1990 by the Arab Republic of Egypt on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and its initiative presented before the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 28th September 2013 containing implementation steps in support of the establishment of the Zone. They also *stressed* that necessary steps should be taken in different international fora for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East. They *took note* with appreciation of the letters sent, in 2013 and 2014, to the United Nations Secretary-General, renewing the support for the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, reflected in the note A/68/781 by the Secretary-General, by: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

325. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 78/17 on the “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East” which urges all Parties directly concerned to seriously consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Heads of State and Government regretted the decision of the United States and Israel to vote, during the 73rd Session of the General Assembly, in 2018, against this resolution, which has been adopted by consensus in the period from 1982 to 2017.

326. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their support for the efforts of the Arab Group in Vienna to keep the question of the Israeli nuclear capabilities under consideration of the General Conference of the IAEA.

327. The Heads of State and Government underscored the Movement’s principled position concerning non-use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity of any State. In this regard, they *condemned* the Israeli attack against a Syrian facility on September 6, 2007, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and *welcomed* Syria’s cooperation with the IAEA in this regard.

328. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements, and in this regard, they *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution (78/25) on this matter without a vote. They *reaffirmed* that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties.

329. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the importance of the UN activities at the regional level to increase the stability and security of its Member States, which could be promoted in a substantive manner by the maintenance and revitalization of the three regional centers for peace and disarmament.

330. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), while *reaffirming* the package of agreements of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT and the Final Document of the 2000 Review

Conference of the NPT, and recognizing the crucial role of the NPT in nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, were of the view that the “Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on actions” of the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT, represent an outcome that can be built upon and further enhanced in the near future, to fully address the priorities of the Movement, in particular to realize a world free from nuclear weapons. They *called upon* the NWS to implement fully and effectively their obligations under the Treaty, in particular in the area of nuclear disarmament, and the outcomes of its Review Conferences, in particular the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, and the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. They expressed their disappointment over the consecutive failure of the 9th and the 10th NPT Review Conferences to adopt a consensual outcome document despite constructive engagement made by NAM States Parties to the NPT. This failure should serve as a stimulus to work harder towards achieving nuclear disarmament. NAM States Parties to the NPT stressed the importance of fulfilling the commitments made at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Treaty. They further reiterated their readiness to engage in future discussions and negotiations in a constructive, transparent and inclusive manner, involving all States Parties, to achieve consensus.

331. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the NPT *reiterated* the urgent need for accountability of the NWS for their disarmament obligations under the NPT through benchmarks, concrete, measurable, and time-bound actions on nuclear disarmament with established deadlines, and reporting their implementation of these obligations to the NPT Review Conference in a structured manner that allows NNWS to engage constructively on reports, and that these reports must contain comparable information including inter alia the number, type, and status of nuclear warhead, the number and types of delivery vehicles, the amount/stock of fissile material produced for military purposes, taken to reduce the role and significance of nuclear weapons.

332. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the NPT *stressed* the importance of the review of the operation of the Treaty in the framework of the NPT Review Conferences and in this context *emphasized* that the inclusion of the Review Part of the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference as an opinion of the President and not as a consensus language should not be considered as a precedent to be followed in the future without prejudice to the prerogatives of the Review Conferences.

333. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the NPT *reiterated* the importance of the full implementation of the action plans adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference on nuclear disarmament, on nuclear non-proliferation, on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and on the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. They *expressed concern* at the lack of agreement on a number of key priorities of NAM States Parties to the NPT and *agreed* to continue their collective efforts in pursuing the realization of their priorities at the NPT Review Conferences.

334. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the NPT *welcomed* the adoption by consensus of a detailed plan of action on “the Middle East, particularly implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East” in the “Conclusions and Recommendations for Follow-on actions” of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

335. While *expressing deep concern* over the long delay in the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, the Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the NPT strongly urged the United Nations Secretary-General and the three cosponsors of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East to fully implement it, without any further delay, to achieve the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with the agreed outcomes of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences and relevant General Assembly decisions. Recalling the consensus decision contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on convening, in 2012, a Conference on the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East, they expressed their profound disappointment and serious concern that the conference was

not convened in 2012 as scheduled. They *underscored* that the failure to convene the Conference is contrary to the letter and spirit of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and contradicts and violates the collective agreement of the States Parties contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. They *strongly rejected* the arguments presented by the Conveners of the 2012 Conference for not convening the Conference on schedule.

336. NAM States Parties to the NPT *expressed* their disappointment that as a result of the opposition by the US, UK and Canada at the concluding session of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, consensus on measures regarding the process to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction was not achieved. They further *underscored* that efforts related to the establishment of the Zone should be undertaken in accordance with the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East as well as the relevant United Nations Resolutions. The Heads of State and Government reiterated in this regard the common position of the NAM States Parties to the NPT as reflected in relevant working papers presented at the Review Conference and *called* for concrete and urgent steps for the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

337. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the NPT *reiterated* their call for the firm commitment by all States Parties to the Treaty to the full and indiscriminate implementation of all the provisions of the Treaty. They further called for the full implementation of the 13 practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the Treaty, particularly an unequivocal undertaking by the NWS to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, they *underlined* the agreement by consensus at the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT, which reaffirmed the previous agreements, on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons; the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT; and on providing effective, unconditional and non-discriminatory universal legally binding security assurances to all NNWS parties to the Treaty, which would strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

338. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the NPT *called upon* the NWS to fully comply with their commitments not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against NNWS parties to the Treaty or NWFZs at any time or under any circumstances, pending the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on security assurances.

339. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. They continued to note with concern the increasing restrictions on exports of material, equipment and technology, for peaceful purposes. They again *emphasized* that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued sustainable development. They *expressed* their full confidence in the impartiality and professionalism of the IAEA and *strongly rejected* any politically motivated attempts by any State to politicize the work of the IAEA, including its technical co-operation programme, in violation of its Statute, as well as any pressure or interference in the Agency's activities which could jeopardize the efficiency and credibility of the IAEA and the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

340. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the NPT *emphasized* once more that nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the Treaty. They *stressed* that this right constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty.

341. The Heads of State and Government confirmed that each country's choices and decision in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international co-operation agreements and arrangements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its fuel-cycle policies.

342. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need for the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in developing countries, which contributes to the attainment of their respective national sustainable development goals, and the full respect for their right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They *underlined* particularly the responsibility of developed countries to facilitate, to the fullest extent possible, the transfer, to developing countries, of nuclear equipment, materials, scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes. They also encouraged the IAEA to continue supporting developing countries in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular through its technical cooperation programme, which is essential for the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful uses.

343. The Heads of State and Government recalled the successful conclusion of nuclear negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/Eu+3, resulting in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on 14 July 2015 adopted by Security Council resolution 2231. The Heads of State and Government called *for* its full implementation by all its participants and *underlined* that this agreement showed once again that dialogue and diplomacy are the most appropriate means to resolve such issues, as the Movement has always advocated.

344. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the adoption, through a vote, in 2010 and 2011, by the IAEA Board of Governors, of three proposals of assurance of supply mechanisms in the framework of the multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. They *highlighted* that this issue should be conducted through wide, integral and transparent consultations and negotiations, focusing on its technical, legal, political and economic implications, before any further decision is taken about this complex and sensitive matter. They *emphasized* that decisions should be made by consensus, with the participation of all IAEA member States, and any proposal from IAEA must be consistent with its Statute, without any prejudice to the inalienable right of its member States to research, develop and use for peaceful purposes of nuclear sciences, in all its aspects, including the inalienable right of each State Party, if it so decides, to develop, for peaceful purposes, a full national nuclear fuel cycle in accordance with its rights and obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

345. The Heads of State and Government, *emphasizing* the importance of the positive role played by the Non-Aligned Members in the IAEA, *stressed* the necessity that all members of the IAEA strictly observe its Statute. They *stressed* that any pressure or interference in the Agency's verification process, which could jeopardize the efficiency and credibility of the Agency, should be avoided. They *recognized* that the IAEA is the sole competent authority for verification of compliance with the obligations under the respective safeguard agreements of the Member States. They also *reaffirmed* that a clear distinction has to be made between the legal obligations of Member States under their respective safeguards agreements and their voluntary undertakings, in order to ensure that such voluntary undertakings are not turned into legal safeguards obligations. Bearing in mind the Agency's responsibility in protecting safeguards' confidential information and given the undesirable incidents of leakage of such information, they *emphasized* the need for strengthening the regime for the protection of safeguards confidential information.

346. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities and that any attack or threat of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities - operational or under construction- poses a great danger to human beings, the environment and the IAEA safeguards regime, and constitutes a grave violation of international law, principles and purposes of the UN Charter and regulations of the IAEA. They strongly condemned all attacks and threats

to attack on nuclear facilities, whether operational or under construction, and called upon all States to refrain under all circumstances, from any such acts or threats thereof. They recognized the urgent need for a comprehensive multilaterally negotiated instrument prohibiting attacks or threat of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

347. The Heads of State and Government affirmed the need to strengthen the Radiological Safety and Protection Systems at facilities utilizing radioactive materials as well as at radioactive waste management facilities, including the safe transportation of these materials. They *reaffirmed* the need to further strengthen existing international regulations relating to safety and security of transportation of such materials. They noted the efforts of the IAEA in this regard, including through the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety which was unanimously endorsed by the IAEA General Conference. While *reiterating* the need to take appropriate measures to prevent any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes, they called for effective implementation of the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste of the IAEA as a means of enhancing the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive waste on their territories.

348. The Heads of State and Government recognized that the responsibility for nuclear safety and nuclear security rests with the individual States. In that sense, they *underlined* that States with nuclear power programs have a central role in their own countries in ensuring the application of the highest standards of nuclear safety and the responsibility for providing a timely, transparent and adequate response to nuclear accidents in order to minimize their consequences. They *stressed* the need for a rapid, timely, continuous, reliable and transparent dissemination of information on nuclear accidents with significant trans-boundary radiological effects in accordance with relevant international conventions.

349. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need to improve national, regional and international preparedness and response to nuclear accidents and called for a strengthened role of the IAEA in emergency preparedness and response, including through assisting Member States, upon their request, on emergency preparedness and response to nuclear accidents, promoting capacity building, including education and training in the field of crisis management.

350. The Heads of State and Government emphasized that measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and nuclear security must not be used as a pretext or leverage to violate, deny or restrict the inalienable right of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

351. The Heads of State and Government emphasized that the IAEA is the sole inter-governmental organization within the UN system with the mandate and expertise to deal with the technical subjects of nuclear safety and nuclear security.

352. The Heads of State and Government stressed that the issues related to proliferation, should be resolved through political and diplomatic means, and that measures and initiatives taken in this regard should be within the framework of international law, relevant conventions and the UN Charter, and should contribute to the promotion of international peace, and security.

353. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the possibility of any use of bacteriological (biological) agents and toxins as weapons should be completely excluded, and the conviction that such use would be repugnant to the conscience of humankind. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) *recognized* the particular importance of strengthening the Convention through the resumption of the multilateral negotiations for a legally binding Protocol dealing with all Articles of the Convention, in a balanced and comprehensive manner, including through verification measures bearing in mind that, the lack of such a verification regime poses a challenge to the effectiveness of the Convention, and urged the party rejecting negotiations to reconsider its policy. They *expressed* satisfaction that currently, 185 States are Parties to the Convention, and also *stressed* the importance of universal adherence to the Convention and, in this context, welcomed the

recent accession of the United Republic of Tanzania, Namibia and South Sudan to the Convention. They *reiterated* their call to promote international cooperation for peaceful purposes, including scientific-technical exchange. They *underlined* the importance to maintain close coordination among the NAM States Parties to the Convention and highlighted that the BTWC forms a whole and that, although it is possible to consider certain aspects separately, it is critical to deal with all of the issues interrelated to this Convention in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

354. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to BTWC *welcomed* the active participation by NAM States Parties in the 9th BTWC Review Conference, held from 28 November to 16 December 2022, and the BTWC Meeting of States Parties (MSP), held from 4-8 December 2017, the BTWC Meetings of Experts held from 7-16 August 2018, and the BTWC MSP held from 4-7 December 2018, in Geneva to advance their positions. They welcomed the results of the 9th BTWC Review Conference and expressed their satisfaction at the agreement reached by States Parties to the Convention, enabling the establishment of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Convention, which constitutes a major achievement in the objective of identifying, examining and developing specific and effective measures, possibly also of a legally binding nature, and formulating recommendations to strengthen and institutionalize the Convention in all its aspects, which are to be submitted to the States Parties for their consideration and action, as appropriate. These measures, they noted, should be formulated and designed in such a way that their implementation contributes to international cooperation, scientific research and economic and technological development, avoiding any negative effects.

355. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the working sessions held by the Working Group in Geneva, on 15-16 March 2023, to address organizational issues, and the substantive meetings held on 07-18 August and 04-08 December 2023. They reiterated their commitment to work through the Working Group and in the inter-sessional period with a view to establishing a mechanism open to all States Parties to facilitate and support the full implementation of international cooperation and assistance under Article X and a mechanism to review and assess scientific and technological developments relevant to the Convention and to provide States Parties with advice and identify and develop effective measures to strengthen and institutionalize the Convention.

356. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to BTWC *expressed concern* that the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the weakness in implementation of Article X of the Convention and underlined the urgent need to focus on strengthening international cooperation and assistance, as well as the importance and the necessity of access of all States Parties, particularly developing States to biological equipment, materials and scientific and technological information. They recognized the need for establishment of an effective institutional mechanism, in particular a cooperation committee with a view to ensuring multilateral cooperation among all States Parties for peaceful purposes in an effective, full and non-discriminatory manner. The Heads of State and Government noted with concern the lack of consensus that obliged the NAM Group to forego its turn to preside the 9th BTWC Review Conference. In this regard, they emphasized the importance of unity and solidarity of the Group.

357. They *expressed* grave concern at the unilateral coercive measures imposed against some NAM States parties which have impeded or disrupted access to and procurement of medicine and medical supplies and services, development, purchase and delivery of vaccines and reagents and raw materials for their production, thus creating serious challenges for the management and mitigation of infectious diseases as well as rare diseases. They urged those States that have imposed unilateral coercive measures to promptly comply with their obligations under Article X of the Convention and to immediately lift all unilateral coercive measures which directly or indirectly affect the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the use of biological agents and toxins for peaceful purposes.

358. They also *welcomed* their key role in the adoption of the important decisions related to the implementation of Article X of the BTWC, especially by emphasizing the need for enhancing

international cooperation, assistance and exchanges in toxins, biological agents equipment and technology for peaceful purposes, bearing in mind the Action Plan on the implementation of Article X submitted by the NAM States Parties at the Sixth Review Conference, and the additional NAM States Parties' proposal on an institutional mechanism for international cooperation and compliance with Article X presented more recently. They further *encouraged* the BTWC States Parties to implement the Article X, as set forth in the Final Documents of the seventh, eighth and ninth BTWC Review Conferences. They *reiterated* the importance of strengthening the operationalization of the cooperation database which was established by the Seventh Review Conference to ensure that specific, timely and concrete offers of cooperation under Article X are provided by States Parties in the database and to consider the ways to improve reporting on this issue, taking into account the current lack of effectiveness of the referred database and welcomed the VIII Review Conference decision regarding the maintenance of a Sponsorship Programme, funded by voluntary contributions from States Parties, in order to support and increase the participation of developing States Parties in the meetings of the inter-sessional programme in the framework of the BTWC.

359. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the BTWC *emphasized* the importance of the BTWC role in the international legal architecture related to WMD and in particular in the total prohibition on all biological and toxin weapons. They further *emphasized* the need for enhancing, without restrictions, international cooperation and assistance and exchanges in toxic biological agents equipment and technology for peaceful purposes without any discrimination, in conformity with the Convention. They *reaffirmed* that the respective mandates of this Convention and other international organizations should be respected, while utilizing the experiences of the relevant multilateral organizations dealing with human and animal health on issues that are of direct relevance to the Convention, and that no actions should be taken to undermine the convention and/or interfere with its mandate.

360. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) *welcomed* the successful conclusion of its Third Review Conference. They reiterated that a transparent, holistic and balanced approach shall prevail in follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Third Review Conference, and encouraged the continuation of discussions aimed at drafting a document on the Future Priorities of the OPCW, with a view for it to be considered during the Review Conference. They *invited* all States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible with a view to its universality. They firmly believe that the recent accession of the State of Palestine as the 193rd State Party is a significant step towards achieving universality of the Convention. They *reaffirmed* that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced through its full implementation, and in this context also encouraged all States Parties that have not yet done so to engage with the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the steps that need to be undertaken for the national implementation of the Convention. They *reaffirmed* the importance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under CWC. They *reiterated* their call on the developed countries to promote international cooperation for the benefit of States Parties through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all and any restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention. They *recalled* that the full, balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention, in particular economic and technical development through international cooperation, is fundamental to the achievement of its object and purpose. They also *reaffirmed* the need to respect the principles included in the Convention and called upon States parties to the CWC to avoid the polarization and politicization of the work of the Organization, while encouraging States Parties to continue working cooperatively in the interest of consensus.

361. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *stressed* that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as weapons anywhere by anyone under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to international law, particularly the

provisions of the Convention. They also reaffirmed that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.

362. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *expressed* deep regret for the non-adoption of the report of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapon Convention due to the lack of consensus and politicization on some issues. They noted the importance of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for the Fifth Review Conference, held in May 2023, and commended the close cooperation of all States parties and regional groups in the Working Group for making all efforts to achieve consensus, which unfortunately was not achieved in the Fifth Review Conference

363. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *noted* that, in terms of the overall figure for destruction, 100% of declared chemical weapons had been destroyed as of 7th July 2023. In this connection, they welcomed the completion of destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles by the Republic of Iraq, State of Libya, the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic. While recalling the decisions of the Executive Council with respect to the elimination and destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons, and the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons production facilities, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the substantive efforts made and the progress achieved in this regard. They also welcomed the Director-General's reports on the completion of the destruction of all chemical weapons and chemical weapon production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. The Heads of State and Government look forward to the continuation of the existing successful cooperation between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic on all issues. They also noted with serious concern, that the final extended deadline of April 2012 for the destruction of chemical weapons was not met by the United States.

364. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC, while reaffirming their commitment to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention for the realization of its object and purpose, *acknowledged* that the implementation of the Convention contributes to international peace and security, as well as to the economic and technological development of the States Parties, including in their efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

365. They *reaffirmed* the importance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under CWC. They *reiterated* their call on the developed countries to promote international cooperation for the benefit of States Parties through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all and any restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention. They *recalled* that the full, balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention, in particular economic and technical development through international cooperation, is fundamental to the achievement of its object and purpose.

366. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the CWC *welcomed* the mentoring program on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons' Convention as part of the efforts to strengthen the support provided by States Parties to each other to promote cooperation for the implementation of this convention.

367. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *encouraged* the Technical Secretariat and States Parties to make fullest efforts, including during the annual workshop and consultations, to commence a comprehensive discussion in the PMOs on the implementation of components of the agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), in order to adopt a Plan of Action for the implementation of this Article, and also to move forward in the formulation of an OPCW strategy on international cooperation. They noted that this will contribute to the economic and technological development of States Parties, including in promoting the peaceful uses of chemistry.

368. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *expressed* their deep concern regarding, and condemned, any attempt to accuse States Parties of using chemical weapons on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations made by media reports or any other open sources, including non-governmental entities, bearing in mind that this trend can cause a dangerous precedent for the future of the OPCW.

369. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *condemned* the use of chemical weapons by terrorist groups and expressed their deep concern about the use or threat of use of chemical weapons by such groups. In this regard, they requested the Technical Secretariat to investigate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, all reports on the use or threat of use of chemical weapons by such groups, and to keep States Parties informed accordingly.

370. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the CWC *highlighted* emerging threats emanating from terrorist groups' seizing toxic chemical materials and chemical weapons and called upon the international community to combine its efforts to respond, in accordance with international law and the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, as well as the CWC, to this threat in a united and determined manner.

371. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *paid their respects* to victims of chemical weapons and their families and, in light of the decision adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its 16th Session (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011), recognized States Parties for their contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and encouraged all State Parties to consider contributing actively to the Trust Fund.

372. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *commended* the achievements accomplished under the fifth phase of the Africa Programme and look forward to the contributions of the sixth phase. They underlined the importance of sustaining and funding this Programme under the regular budget allocation. In this regard, they expressed their support to the African Group's request to the Technical Secretariat to prioritize the strengthening of relevant regional cooperation mechanisms and bodies to improve coordination and synergy, including through the African Union and other regional bodies, with the aim of enhancing domestication of the CWC in Africa.

373. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *encouraged* States Parties to work cooperatively and accommodatively in order to achieve the successful conclusion of its sessions and to neither polarize nor politicize the works of the Organization. They stressed that the practice of consensus-based decision-making by the policy-making organs (PMO) is the best modality for achieving the object and purpose of the Convention. Therefore, they urged all States Parties to cooperate inclusively, so the PMOs of the OPCW can return to the practice of making decisions based on this very important principle. They reaffirmed the role of the PMOs in the evaluation and implementation of all issues related to the Convention, in accordance with their mandates.

374. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *welcomed* the establishment of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech). They expect the Centre would contribute to the promotion of international cooperation, provide capacity building programs and technical assistance to the OPCW Member States and strengthened engagement with chemical industries in the field of chemical activities for peaceful purposes in an efficient and transparent manner.

375. The Heads of State and Government once again *condemned* the Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip in 2009 and July and August 2014 and the occupying power's indiscriminate shelling and bombing of Palestinian civilian areas and *expressed* their grave concern over the reported use against civilians, of harmful and potentially fatal incendiary weapons, such as white phosphorous. In this regard, they *reiterated* their call for a thorough

investigation of this serious matter by relevant bodies under the appropriate international conventions and agreements.

376. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the CWC *stressed* that upon the completion of the elimination of the declared chemical weapons, while the OPCW maintains its mandate as a disarmament Organisation, the promotion of trade and international cooperation in the field of peaceful application of chemistry shall be the main priority and function of the OPCW.

377. The Heads of State and Government regretted unsubstantiated allegations of non-compliance with relevant instruments on weapons of mass destruction and *called on* States Parties to such instruments that make such allegations to follow procedures set out in those instruments and to provide necessary substantiation for their allegations. They *called upon* all States Parties to the respective international instruments to implement fully and in a transparent manner all their obligations under these instruments.

378. The Heads of State and Government expressed their satisfaction with the consensus among States on measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. They *welcomed* the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly Resolution (78/43) entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” and underlined the need for this threat to humanity to be addressed within the UN framework and through international co-operation. While *stressing* that the most effective way of preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction is through the total elimination of such weapons, they *emphasized* that progress was urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism. They *called upon* all Member States to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. They also *urged* all Member States to take and strengthen national measures, as appropriate, to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and materials and technologies related to their manufacture.

379. While noting the adoption of resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008), 1977 (2011), 2055 (2012), and 2325 (2016), by the Security Council, the Heads of State and Government underlined the need to ensure that any action by the Security Council does not undermine the UN Charter and existing multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction and of international Organizations established in this regard, as well as the role of the General Assembly. They further *cautioned* against the continuing practice of the Security Council to utilize its authority to define the legislative requirements for Member States in implementing Security Council decisions. In this regard, they *stressed* the importance of the issue of non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction to be addressed in an inclusive manner by the General Assembly, *taking into account* the views of all Member States.

380. With respect to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and, as a principled position, the Heads of State and Government underscored that the Security Council does not have legislative power on the subject of the resolution. They stressed that the comprehensive reviews of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) should strictly abide by the UN Charter, as well as relevant international legally binding instruments and mandate of the aforementioned resolution and be based on the main thrust to prevent the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery by non-state actors. They stressed that efforts should be strived for the comprehensive reviews of the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to observe the principle of consensus and for it to be conducted through open, transparent and inclusive consultations with Member States.

381. Mindful of the threat posed to humankind by the existing weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons and underlining the need for the total elimination of such weapons, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction and therefore *supported* the necessity of monitoring the situation

and triggering international action as required. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption on 4 December 2023 of the General Assembly Resolution 78/15 entitled “Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament” and reiterated the adherence of their countries to and called on the international community to abide by the goals and principles set out therein.

382. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their parts and components for their self-defense and security needs. They *expressed* their concern about unilateral coercive measures and *emphasized* that no undue restriction should be placed on the transfer of such arms and their parts and components to States.

383. The Heads of State and Government recognized the significant imbalance in the production, possession and trade in conventional weapons between the industrialized and the Non-Aligned Countries, and called for a significant reduction in the production, possession and trade of conventional weapons by the industrialized states with a view to enhancing international and regional peace and security.

384. The Heads of State and Government remained deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread to unauthorized recipients in many regions of the world, as well as over the challenges posed by their possession by terrorists, illegal armed groups and transnational organized criminal organizations. They *recognized* the need to establish and maintain controls over private ownership of small arms. They *called on* all States, in particular major arms producing States, to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons is limited only to Governments or to entities duly authorized by Governments and to implement legal restrictions and prohibitions preventing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. They *encouraged* all initiatives by States to mobilize resources and expertise as well as to provide assistance to strengthen the full implementation of the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects.

385. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the total validity of the Programme of Action to prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and *emphasized* the importance of its prompt and full implementation and *stressed* that international assistance and cooperation is an essential aspect in its implementation. They *acknowledged* the efforts undertaken by the Member States and regional and sub-regional organizations to implement the Programme of Action. They *called for* the full implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace in a Timely and Reliable Manner the Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, which was adopted by the General Assembly and remains valid. Underlining the importance of international cooperation and assistance in the implementation of the Programme of Action and expressing the resolve of NAM Member States in further advancing of this objective, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the successful conclusion of the Third UN Conference to Review the Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held from 18 to 29 June 2018 in New York and adoption of its outcome document. The Heads of State and Government took note of the successful convening of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States on the PoA, held in July 2022, and the adoption of its consensual outcome document and welcomed the Meeting’s decision to establish a standing dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons particularly for developing countries.

386. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their respect for and commitment to their obligations under international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the legitimate right to self-defence and the right of each State to acquire, manage and transfer small arms and light weapons for its self-defence and security needs, as well as the principle of non-interference.

387. The Heads of State and Government emphasized that the international assistance to support the implementation of the Programme of Action is still not commensurate with the needs of affected countries, taking into account the growing magnitude of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and the danger it continues to pose. They called for ensuring the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of such international assistance. They *called for* the provision of concrete assistance, including technical and financial assistance to developing countries upon their request. They *emphasized* that such assistance should not be made conditional on being part of, or detracting from, the recipient States' Official Development Assistance. They also *called on* the UN, in its activities in support of the implementation of the PoA, to rely further on the expertise available in developing countries.

388. The Heads of State and Government noted the adoption, by vote, of the Arms Trade Treaty by the UN General Assembly on 2nd April 2013 and its entry into force on 24 December 2014. They also *noted* that the Treaty aims at regulating trade in conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons. They *called for* balanced, transparent and objective implementation of the Treaty, in strict accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, and the inherent right of each State to security and to individual or collective self-defense. They also *underscored* that its implementation should, in no way, affect the sovereign right of States to acquire, manufacture, export, import and retain conventional arms and their parts and components for their self-defense, security needs and the maintenance of their territorial integrity. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the ATT *emphasized* the importance of ensuring a leading role for NAM States Parties from those regions most affected by the illicit trade of conventional arms in the implementation of the Treaty, as well as in any future institutional arrangements of the Treaty.

389. The Heads of State and Government expressed their concern by the continued maneuvers to politicize the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

390. The Heads of State and Government continued to deplore the use, in contravention of international humanitarian law of anti-personnel mines in conflict situations aimed at maiming, killing and terrorizing innocent civilians, denying them access to farmland, causing famine and forcing them to flee their homes eventually leading to de-population and preventing the return of civilians to their place of original residence. They *called upon* all States in the position to do so, to provide the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to landmine clearance operations, the social and economic rehabilitation of victims as well as to ensure full access of affected countries to material equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance.

391. The Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration efforts in the NAM Member States to sustain peace, foster economic development and promote cooperation, and in this regard highlighted the importance of effective mine action in and the role of international assistance to NAM Member States most affected by the contamination of mines and other unexploded devices.

392. The Heads of State and Government, while recognizing the legitimate right of States to use mines consistent with their self-defense needs, *acknowledged* the complex nature of the mines issue, which requires concerted efforts by all Member States and, in this regard, welcomed the proposal by the Republic of Azerbaijan to establish, in line with the NAM documents on methodology, a NAM Contact Group for consultations and practical cooperation on humanitarian de-mining and related issues.

393. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Mine Ban Convention) reiterated their commitment to the full implementation of the Oslo Action Plan. They invited those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention. They also welcomed the Global Conference on Assisting Landmine and

other Explosive Remnants of War Survivors in the Context of Disability Rights and other Domains, held in Medellin, on 03-04 April 2014.

394. The Heads of State and Government of the NAM States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Mine Ban Convention) *welcomed* the efforts of those parties who have recently completed their obligations under the Mine Ban Convention, including Algeria and Belarus, by having destroyed their stockpiles of anti-personnel mines and cleaned affected areas.

395. The Heads of State and Government expressed concern about the explosive remnants of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines which continue to cause human and material damage and obstruct development plans in some NAM Countries. They *called on* the States primarily responsible for laying these mines and leaving explosives outside their territories during the Second World War to cooperate with the affected countries and provide mine action support to affected countries, including information exchange, maps indicating the locations of mines and explosives, technical assistance for mine clearance, defrayal of the costs of clearance and compensation for any losses caused by mines-laid.

396. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocols *encouraged* States to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols. NAM States Parties to the CCW welcome the accession of Malawi and Namibia to the Convention and its annexed protocols. NAM States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) welcomed the successful adoption by consensus of the Report of Meeting of High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons held on 16-18 November 2022. They stressed that further strengthening of the CCW will make a significant contribution to progressive development of the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict and advancing further in the field of disarmament on the basis of universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent negotiations with the goal of reaching general and complete disarmament under strict international control.

397. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the CCW *welcomed* the efforts of the Non-Aligned States Parties to the CCW to advance their positions during the meetings of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the CCW *recalled* different proposals on a political declaration, code of conduct and other voluntary measures, including national weapons review process, Confidence Building Measures (CBM's) as well as the establishment of a Committee of Experts.

398. The Heads of State and Government of NAM *took note* of the initiatives aimed at strengthening collaboration among States such as the Latin American and the Caribbean Conference on the Social and Humanitarian Impact of Autonomous Weapons, held in Costa Rica on February 23-24, 2023 and the Manila Meeting on Indo-Pacific Perspectives on Autonomous Weapon Systems, held in the Philippines on 13-14 December 2023. The participants in the Conference in Costa Rica recognized the need that such an instrument establishes prohibitions and regulations to guarantee meaningful human control, in conformity with International Law, including International Humanitarian Law.

399. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 78/22 entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament", and acknowledged the potential impact, both positive and negative, that the accelerating pace of technological change and developments in science and technology may have on international security and disarmament.

400. The Heads of State and Government recognized the adverse humanitarian impact caused by the use of cluster munitions and expressed solidarity with the cluster munitions-affected

countries. They called upon all States in a position to do so, to consider providing the necessary financial, technical and humanitarian assistance to unexploded cluster munitions clearance operations, the social and economic rehabilitation of victims as well as to ensure full access of affected countries to material, equipment, technology and financial resources for unexploded cluster munitions clearance. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions noted the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in Geneva, Switzerland in November 2020 and September 2021. The Heads of State and Government of NAM States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions welcomed the efforts made by Iraq, in its capacity as the president of the 11th meeting of States Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva, from 11th to 14th September 2023, to strengthen implementation the Convention. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government of the NAM State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions welcomed the accession of Nigeria to the Convention.

401. The Heads of State and Government underlined the importance of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 77/49, taking into consideration the possible harmful effects to human health and the environment, caused by the use of weapons and munitions containing depleted uranium.

402. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption without a vote of General Assembly Resolution 78/23 on the relationship between disarmament and development. They also *expressed* concern at the increasing global military expenditure, which could otherwise be spent on development needs. They further *stressed the* importance of the reduction of military expenditures, in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments and *urged* all States to devote resources made available from there to economic and social development, in particular in the fight against poverty. They *expressed* firm support for the unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures aimed at reducing military expenditures, thereby contributing to strengthening regional and international peace and security and recognized that confidence building measures assisted in this regard. They urged the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries.

403. The Heads of State and Government commended the work of the NAM Working Group on Disarmament, under the chairmanship of Indonesia, in coordinating issues of common concern to the Movement in the field of disarmament. They *encouraged* NAM delegations to continue to actively participate in the Working Group with a view to promote and achieve the objectives of the Movement.

404. Consistent with and guided by the aforementioned principled positions and *affirming* the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to:

404.1 Continue to pursue the positions and priorities of the Movement, as appropriate, in the relevant international fora; and

404.2 Task the NAM Coordinating Bureau to undertake efforts, as appropriate, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Movement at disarmament and international security meetings.

Terrorism

405. The Heads of State and Government, while reiterating the respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the UN Charter, *reaffirmed* and *underscored* the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled position concerning terrorism, as follows:

405.1 Terrorist acts constitute one of the most flagrant violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life, leading to the lack of the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples, and that such acts endanger the territorial integrity and stability of States as well as national, regional and international security, destabilize legitimately constituted governments or the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of States, affect the stability of nations and the very basis of societies, as well as create adverse consequences on the economic and social development and cause the destruction of the physical and economic infrastructure of States;

405.2 Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that these attributions should not be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures that include, *inter alia*, profiling of terror suspects and intrusion on individual privacy;

405.3 Criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for whatever purposes, wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed are, in any circumstance, unjustifiable, whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them;

405.4 The Heads of State and Government condemned all forms of incitement to terrorism, under whatever guise of justification, resulting in the loss of life and the destruction of private and public property. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need to combat the violent extremist ideology inciting terrorism irrespective of its origin;

405.5 Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. The brutalization of people remaining under foreign occupation should continue to be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and that the use of State power for the suppression and violence against peoples struggling against foreign occupation in exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should continue to be condemned. In this regard, and in accordance with the UN Charter, international law and the relevant UN resolutions, the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation does not constitute terrorism (46/51 of 9 December 1991).

405.6 The Movement *reaffirmed* its principled position under international law and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991 as well as other relevant UN resolutions on the legitimacy of the struggle of people under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for national liberation and self-determination, which does not constitute terrorism, and once again *called for* the definition of terrorism to differentiate it from the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation

405.7 The financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern that must be fought with determination. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government strongly condemned criminal incidences of hostage-taking with resultant demands for ransoms and/or other political concessions by terrorist groups, and called upon all States to cooperate actively in order to address this issue, in all its aspects including its legal aspects. They invited Member States to take the necessary measures to prevent terrorists from benefitting from hostage-taking, including ransom payments and political concessions.

405.8 Recognized the need to continue to take measures to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, and, in this regard, encouraged United Nations entities to cooperate with Member States and to continue to provide assistance, upon their request, in particular, to help them to fully implement their respective international obligations to

combat the financing of terrorism, and further encouraged Member States to further build the capacity of their financial oversight and regulatory systems in order to deny terrorists the space to exploit and raise funds.

405.9 The Heads of State and Government reiterated the obligation of Member States to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts and to criminalize the willful provision or collection, by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories with the intention that the funds be used, or with the knowledge that they are to be used, in order to carry out terrorist acts.

405.10 The Heads of State and Government stressed that the active and collaborative response of all UN Member States is needed to impede, impair, isolate and incapacitate terrorist threats, in particular the financing and organization of acts of terrorism, and *emphasized* that unilateral coercive measures are detrimental to a collaborative response to such heinous crimes.

406. The Heads of State and Government *resolved* to undertake all necessary measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including but not limited to prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of these conditions can excuse or justify acts of terrorism.

407. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that States must ensure that any measure taken to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism complies with international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law. In this connection, they rejected the politicization of the fight against terrorism, which is detrimental to international efforts towards that end, including through the unilateral preparation of lists accusing States and their constitutionally-established institutions of allegedly supporting terrorism.

408. In this context, the Heads of State and Government took *note* of the UNSC resolution 2133 of 27 January 2014 condemning such incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking, publication of the “Algiers Memorandum on Good practices on Preventing and denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by terrorists”, and of the “Rabat Memorandum on good practices for effective counterterrorism practice in the Criminal Justice Sector”.

409. While highlighting the contribution of regional and sub-regional initiatives, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of the consideration of measures to eliminate international terrorism by the General Assembly as the principal deliberative organ of the United Nations having competence to do so.

410. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their appreciation for General Assembly Resolution 71/291 of 19 June 2017, through which the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) was established, in accordance with the competencies and functions set out in the report of the Secretary General (A/71/858), with the purpose of, among others, supporting the implementation, in a balanced manner, of all four pillars of the UNGCTS and addressing, upon request of Member States, capacity-building needs. They *look forward* to the contributions of the UNOCT in bringing more coherence and effectiveness to the activities carried out by the United Nations on the counter-terrorism sphere, and *pledged* their support to contributing to its activities. In this regard, they reaffirmed their support to contributing to UNOCT activities.

411. The Heads of State and Government took *note of* the 8th Review of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS), Tunisia, co-facilitated by Tunisia, and the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/298 of 22 June 2023 and called for the transparent, comprehensive and balanced implementation of its four pillars.

412. The Heads of State and Government also *took note of* the report of the Secretary-General on the Global Counterterrorism Coordination Compact, as contained in document 72/840, which is aimed at bringing more coherence and effectiveness to the activities carried by the United Nations on counter-terrorism.

413. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the efforts of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre at the United Nations Headquarters established within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office over its first two years of operation, and welcome the \$100M contribution by the Government of Saudi Arabia to the Centre to further integrate it within the UN system and ensure the continuity of its contribution to promoting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/10.

414. The Heads of State and Government *encouraged* Member States, in their efforts to counter terrorism, to utilize the expertise and resources of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), in particular, the capacity-building component in supporting Member States upon their request, and to collaborate with it and contribute to the implementation of its activities within the UNOCT, including through the development, funding and implementation of capacity-building projects, in order to mobilize a more systematic response to terrorism at the national, regional and global levels, with a special emphasis on the national level.

415. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the regional efforts towards fostering the fight against Terrorism and, in this regard, further welcomed the reports on the terrorist threat in Africa and their recommendations for strengthening the responses to this scourge at the continental level presented by the Algerian President, H.E Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, in his capacity as AU champion on the fight against terrorism and violent extremism in Africa, at the 16th extraordinary session and the 36th ordinary session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The Heads of State and Government called upon the Office of Counter-Terrorism and relevant Global Counter Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, within their existing mandates, to intensify cooperation, assistance and capacity-building, for African Member States, the African Union and African subregional organizations, while ensuring compliance with international law, upon their request, in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, through the implementation of relevant international and regional treaties and protocols, and, in this regard, welcomed in particular African initiatives, namely the African Union Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, based in Algiers, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the Horn of Africa, based in Djibouti, as well as the Community of Sahel-Saharan States Counter-Terrorism Centre, based in Cairo. The Heads of State and Government recognized the important role of the United Nations in providing integrated and coordinated assistance at the field level, and, noting in this regard, the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism in increasing its field presence, including at the regional level through programme offices in Hungary, Kenya, Morocco, Qatar and Spain to facilitate the delivery of programmes closer to beneficiaries, enhance their impact and cost-effectiveness, and strengthen cooperation with national and local counter-terrorism actors, as well as regional bodies and other providers and recipients of assistance, and reminding the Office of Counter-Terrorism field presence to work in close coordination with the wider United Nations presence at the national or regional level.

416. The Heads of State and Government expressed grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters; namely, individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or providing or receiving terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict.

417. While condemning all violations and acts of terrorism committed by FTFs in Iraq, Syria, the Sahel and West Africa and elsewhere, the Heads of State and Government welcomed all victories achieved in the fight to eradicate the threat posed by this phenomenon. In addition, they *called*

for holding accountable those responsible of or involved in its creation and the facilitation of its activities. In this context, the Heads of State and Government called for all States to address all aspects of this issue, including the movement of foreign terrorist fighters to and from conflict zones and the return of foreign terrorist fighters to their countries of origin or residence, or their deployment to a third country, through the implementation of their international obligations, in accordance with national policies of each Member States and underlined the importance of United Nations capacity-building and the facilitation of capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States, including those in the most affected regions, upon their request.

418. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* the need for States to cooperate resolutely against international terrorism by taking speedy and effective measures to eliminate this scourge, and in this regard urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under applicable international law and the UN Charter, to deny safe haven and bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts.

419. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* all Member States, in accordance with their obligations under applicable international law, including the UN Charter, to deny terrorist groups safe haven, freedom of operations, movement and recruitment and financial, material or political support, which endanger national, regional and international peace and security, and to bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts.

420. The Heads of State and Government took note, in this regard, of the publication of The Hague – Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for more effective Response to the FTF phenomenon” and *called upon* all Member States in accordance with their obligations under international law, to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

421. Acknowledging the serious danger and threats posed by terrorism and terrorist acts to the international community, consistent with and guided by the Movement’s principled positions thereof as well as *affirming* the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures:

421.1 Strongly and unequivocally condemn, as criminal, and *reject* terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, which are unjustifiable whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them, and in this context, *reaffirm* their support for the provisions contained in General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991 and other relevant UN resolutions;

421.2 Urge Member States to ensure no tolerance for terrorism, regardless of the targets or motives, and reaffirms their call to refrain from organizing, instigating, facilitating, participating in, financing, encouraging or tolerating terrorist activities and to take appropriate practical measures to ensure that their respective territories are not used for terrorist installations or training camps or for the preparation or organization of terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens;

421.3 Resolve to take speedy and effective measures to eliminate international terrorism, and in this context, urge all States, consistent with the UN Charter, to fulfill their obligations under international law and international humanitarian law, combating terrorism, including by prosecuting or, where appropriate, extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts; by preventing the organization, instigation or financing of terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territories, including through the misuse of Internet, or by organizations based in their territories by discouraging individuals and entities from

engaging in illegal economic activities in the territories of NAM Member States, proceeds of which could be used for financing terrorism; by refraining from organizing, instigating, assisting, financing or participating in terrorist acts in the territories of other States; by refraining from encouraging activities within their territories directed towards the commission of such acts; by refraining from allowing the use of their territories for planning, training or financing for such acts; or by refraining from supplying arms or other weapons that could be used for terrorist acts in other States;

421.4 Condemn any form of, and *refrain* from extending, political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism, and in this context, *urge* all States, consistent with the UN Charter and in fulfilling their obligations under international law, to ensure that refugee status or any other legal status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts and that claims of political motivation by them are not recognized as grounds for refusing requests for their extradition;

421.5 Urge all States, which have not yet done so, to consider to ratify or accede to international and UN conventions and protocols relating to combating terrorism;

421.6 Observe and implement the provisions of all international conventions as well as regional and bilateral instruments relating to terrorism to which their countries are party, taking into account the recommendations of the Final Document of the UN Conference on the Prevention of Crime and Criminal Justice held in Cairo, Egypt in 1995 and the International Conference on Combating Terrorism held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2005;

421.7 Oppose attempts to equate the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation with terrorism, in order to prolong occupation and oppression of innocent people with impunity;

421.8 Further *call on* all States to endorse in principle the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the UN to define terrorism, to differentiate it from the struggle for national liberation, and to reach comprehensive and effective measures for concerted action, and note, in this regard, the proposal of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. They also *denounced* the brutalization of peoples kept under foreign occupation as the gravest form of terrorism. They *condemned* the use of State power for the suppression and violence against innocent victims struggling against foreign occupation to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. They *stressed* the sanctity of this right and *urged* that in this era of enlarged freedom and democracy, peoples under foreign occupation should be allowed to freely determine their destiny. In this context, they *also reaffirmed* their support for General Assembly Resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991 as well as other relevant UN resolutions and the principled position of the Movement that the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination does not constitute terrorism;

421.9 Call upon all States to respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering *terrorism*, and to *reaffirm* their commitment in this respect to prevent human rights violations, consistent with the rule of law and their obligation under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, and in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

421.10 While *reaffirming* the Movement's principled position on combating international terrorism, and in the light of the previous initiatives and considerations adopted by NAM, and of their conviction that multilateral cooperation under the UN auspices is the most effective means to combat international terrorism, the Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their call for an International Conference under the auspices of the UN to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including identifying its root causes;

421.11 Recognize the fundamental role of effective international cooperation in preventing and combating international terrorism and to this end, underline the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers, in particular measures that hinder such cooperation, and which are not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and obligations under international law, and, in this regard, urge States, consistent with their international obligations, to refrain from applying such measures.

421.12 Underline the importance of multilateral efforts in combating terrorism and refraining from any practices and measures inconsistent with international law and the principles of the UN Charter;

421.13 Further *reiterate* the importance of the conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism and, in this respect, *noting* the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Committee on Terrorism established by General Assembly Resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, for elaboration of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the continuing efforts to that end, and *call upon* all States to continue to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues;

421.14 Call for a transparent, comprehensive and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and *agree* to actively engage in future meetings concerning the reviews of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and its implementation and further *call* for the enhanced engagement of all States in the work of the Global Counter Terrorism Compact entities, and support any initiatives by NAM Members States aimed at enhancing the effective implementation in a manner that would advance the principled position of the Non-Aligned Movement;

421.15 The Heads of State and Government recognized the critical role that the national criminal justice systems can play in preventing, deterring and disrupting terrorist activity, and the importance of regional cooperation through promoting judicial cooperation, capacity building and exchange of good practices;

421.16 The Heads of State and Government called for the promotion and defense of the principled position of the Movement in relation to terrorism. In this regard, they urged the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of NAM (CoB-NAM) to participate and deliver the Movement's position on this matter, following consultations among the Member States of the CoB-NAM, during the relevant general debates of the General Assembly, including during the meeting for adopting the resolution on the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, with a view to further advance towards this end;

421.17 The Heads of State and Government *condemned* also the misuse of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), including the internet and social media platforms, to incite and commit acts of terrorism; for recruitment and incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as for the financing, planning, and preparation of terrorist acts, and call for enhancement of international cooperation to prevent and counter the increased use ICTs for terrorist purposes; in this respect highlighted the responsibility of the global Internet governance system, social media platforms, in particular global social media companies in cooperating with law enforcement in preventing and combatting the use of information and communication technologies for terrorist purposes in accordance with international law and with due respect to the cultural and social specificities of states.

421.18 In this regard, the Heads of State and Government took note of the Special meeting of the Counter Terrorism Committee in Mumbai and New Delhi from 28-30 October 2022, and the 17th Extraordinary Session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting on 19 December 2021 in Islamabad.

421.19 The Heads of State and Government expressed their full solidarity with those countries that have suffered the most from the phenomenon of FTFs;

421.20 Strongly *condemn* the grave acts of terrorism which targeted Iraqi civilians in different parts of the country and call for enhancement of international cooperation to support Iraqi capacity building programs to combat all forms of terrorism;

421.21 Express deep solidarity with the victims of terrorism and their families, and call on Member States to provide them with proper full assistance and support, pursuant to relevant applicable international law and domestic law, to ensure that their physical, medical and psychosocial needs are met, and their human rights are recognized and protected.

421.22 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the victories that the Iraqi military forces achieved through the liberation of all the areas, which were occupied by the terrorist group of Da'esh, and the last which has been liberated, and call for providing support to the Iraqi forces in all its fractions by developing its capabilities and promoting building capacities of Iraqi Army, providing them with sophisticated weapons and share cooperation in the field of intelligence information between Member States to end the existence of any remnants of the enemy terrorist gangs of Da'esh and to prevent the provision of shelters for individuals and groups who sow terror;

421.23 The Heads of State and Government commended the government of the Republic of Iraq for the victories achieved by the Iraqi armed forces as well as the liberation of all Iraqi territories from the control of Da'esh terrorist group; welcome the return of the internally displaced people to their homes and for providing security and stability in the liberated cities. The Heads of State and Government also take note of the appreciation of Iraq to all the states that helped Iraq to achieve these victories;

421.24 The Heads of State and Government *called upon* the Member States of NAM to assist the Iraqi Government's efforts to rebuild the war-devastated regions and to strengthen Iraqi capabilities;

421.25 The Heads of State and Government condemned the crimes committed by the terrorist groups of Da'esh, such as mass murder, the captivity of women, subjugation, rape and kidnapping of thousands of Iraqis, which are considered crimes against humanity, causing a human catastrophe and large numbers of displaced civilians, escaping from the brutality of such terrorist groups;

421.26 The Heads of State and Government condemned what has happened to the historical and archaeological monuments of Iraq, targets of massive and systematic destruction especially in the city of Mosul by the terrorist group of Da'esh. They also *condemned* the terrorist acts such as the demolition of historical monuments, dating back to historical eras representing the first civilization in the world, hence the community of nations is called to prevent, stop and restore Iraqi antiquities that were smuggled outside Iraq;

421.27 The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the importance of prohibiting the terrorist groups of Da'esh, to recruit foreign terrorist fighters, whose presence exacerbates the conflict and contributes to the spread of violent extremism; and of taking the necessary steps to prevent the infiltration of terrorists, reaffirming the implementation of the sanctions imposed against the groups of Da'esh, the front of Al-Nusrah and all other parties that recruit for these organizations, who are involved in its activities, such as: financing of foreign terrorist fighters; facilitating their travel to the terrorist groups, and eliminating the sources of funding for these terrorist organizations;

421.28 The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* a number of terrorist attacks against Iranian scientists, which resulted in the loss of valuable human resources

essential to the development of any country. They also strongly condemned several incidences of terrorism by the violent extremist and terrorist groups, including the recent heinous attack on Shahcheragh holy shrine in Shiraz-Iran, killing 13 people including women and children. They also condemned the killing and abducting of the border guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its Sistan and Baluchistan Province, and targeting Iranian diplomats and Iran's diplomatic premises which resulted in killing and wounding of dozens of civilians, including two terrorist bombings in Beirut, Lebanon, in November 2013 and February 2014 and targeting the Embassy and the Cultural Centre by the al-Qaeda linked terrorist groups;

421.29 The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* the heinous terrorist attack in Islamabad, Pakistan on the Marriot Hotel on September 20, 2008 and the terrorist attack on the visiting Sri Lankan Cricket Team in Lahore, on March 3, 2009, and several terrorist attacks including the heinous terrorist attack on a school in Peshawar on 16 December 2014 which represented intensification of international terrorism, causing colossal loss of life, destruction and damage, and called for international cooperation in accordance with the obligations of all Member States under relevant international law against the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism;

421.30 The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* the heinous terrorist attack in Mumbai, India, between November 26 and 29, 2008, which represented an escalation of international terrorism, causing extensive loss of life, destruction and damage, and called for international cooperation of all Member States, in accordance with relevant international law, against the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism;

421.31 The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* the cowardly terrorist attack in In- Amenas, Algeria, on 16 January 2013, which represented an attempt of destabilization, and commended Algeria for the way it faced this attack;

421.32 The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* the terrorist attacks of Boko Haram and the abduction of school girls in the North-East of Nigeria. They *welcomed* and *supported* measures being taken by the Government of Nigeria and the cooperation with countries of the region notably Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin through the Joint Multinational Task Force as well as the international community to combat this terrorist group;

421.33 The Heads of State and Government also *strongly condemned* the terror attacks in Kenya including the Al Shabaab terrorist attack at the Westgate shopping Mall in Nairobi, on 21st September 2013, the Garissa University attack on 2nd April 2015 and more recent terror attacks in the country. They observed that radicalism and extremism are playing an increasing role in terror attacks in the Eastern African region and beyond. They welcomed and *supported* the continued efforts of the Government of Kenya and the region in the fight against the Al Shabaab militant group and its affiliates and called for concerted international action to tackle this menace;

421.34 The Heads of State and Government expressed their continued concern on and condemned the terrorist attacks by Boko Haram in the region, their consequences on the economy and development of the affected countries, their humanitarian consequences on the populations of the Lake Chad Basin zone and expressed their solidarity with the concerned NAM member countries. They also expressed their concern at and condemned the activities of all affiliated and similar terrorist organizations in the region and elsewhere;

421.35 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the progress made by Member States of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and Benin in making the Multinational Joint Task Force operational in order to effectively combat the threat Boko Haram poses and took note

of the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union to support the Task Force;

421.36 The Heads of State and Government *also welcomed* the visit made by the Security Council to the countries of the Lake Chad Basin region from 2 to 7 March 2017, to engage in dialogue with the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria in their efforts to combat Boko Haram and address the subsequent urgent needs for the conflict-affected populations of the Region, the subsequent resolution 2349 (2017) of 31 March 2017 adopted at the end of the visit in which the Council called for, inter alia, increased assistance to the countries of the region and urged for its implementation;

421.37 The Heads of State and Government *further appealed* to the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the States concerned to combat Boko Haram, called for the intensification of support from bilateral and multilateral partners, through concrete financial and technical assistance, for the collaborative frameworks of action by the affected countries and invited them to contribute to the mobilization of resources to increase the operational capabilities of the forces engaged in the fight against Boko Haram;

421.38 The Heads of State and Government condemned the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Al-Shabaab on 24 May 2014, on the Federal Parliament which led to the fatal casualties of African Union Peacekeepers, as well as the Somalian National Army. The Heads of State and Government pledged their continued solidarity with the people and Government of Somalia in the fight against the terror group Al-Shabaab. They *called upon* the international community to support the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia and of ATMIS in stabilizing the security situation in Somalia;

421.39 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel as well as international efforts aiming at mobilizing resources and assistance in support of the States of the region efforts to address the complex security, political and humanitarian situation. The Heads of State and Government underscored that the strategy should be implemented in close cooperation with the States of the Sahel, West Africa and the Maghreb, as well as the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU);

421.40 The Heads of State and Government condemned the violence and terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic;

421.41 Strongly *condemned* the rise of violence and brutality committed by Da'esh and other Al-Qaida affiliated groups, in particular Iraq, Syria, the Sahel and West Africa, noting that Da'esh not only pose a threat to the people of these countries, but also to all countries in Middle East and Africa, and if left unchecked, to the rest of the world;

421.42 The Heads of State and Government welcomed international cooperation to addressing the heinous terrorist attacks in Marawi City, Philippines in 2017 perpetrated by Da'esh including affiliated terrorist groups in the Philippines, causing extensive loss of life, destruction and damage, in accordance with the obligations of all Member States under applicable international law against the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism. They noted the designation of relevant terrorist groups by the Security Council pursuant to its resolution 1267. They *supported* measures undertaken by the Government of the Philippines to combat these terrorist groups; and the rehabilitation work for Marawi City and its people, as victims of terrorism.

421.43 The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the adoption by the Security Council of several resolutions on countering Da'esh and other Al-Qaida affiliated groups, namely 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), 2178 (2014), 2253 (2015), 2368 (2017) and 2396 (2017)

addressing the phenomenon of the FTF, and *called* for their implementation and building the capacities of States to implement them;

421.44 Hold a NAM Ministerial *Meeting* on the issue of terrorism at the most appropriate date, based on the progress of the discussions and negotiations on this issue at the United Nations;

421.45 Continue to support national, regional and international efforts and arrangements that seek to implement, where appropriate, the pertinent international legally binding instruments, as well as the relevant UN resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 46/51 and Security Council resolutions and regional arrangements and instruments relating to combating terrorism; *strengthen* the cooperation with all States in this regard, emphasizing that such cooperation should be in conformity with the UN Charter, international law and the relevant international conventions; and in this context, *urge* the relevant UN organs to promote ways and means to support and strengthen such cooperation;

421.46 Note the increasing and recognized potential links between transnational organized crime and the financing of terrorism, including money laundering, stress the need for promoting cooperation and coordinating efforts in fighting the scourge of these two criminal activities;

421.47 Reject actions and measures, the use or threat of use of force in particular by armed forces, which violate the UN Charter and international law especially the relevant international conventions, imposed or threatened to be imposed by any State against any Non-Aligned Country under the pretext of combating terrorism or to pursue its political aims, including by directly or indirectly categorizing them as terrorism Sponsoring-States. They called upon the Security Council to promote legitimacy and credibility of the Da'esh/Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regimes, in particular by addressing the concerns of due process and transparency in its listing and delisting procedure and in granting exemption. They further totally reject targeting other States under the pretext of combating terrorism, as well as the unilateral preparation of lists accusing States of allegedly supporting terrorism, which are inconsistent with international law and constitute on their part a form of psychological and political terrorism and in this context, *underscoring* the need to *exercise* solidarity with the Non-Aligned Countries that are affected by such actions and measures;

421.48 Introduce comprehensive qualitative changes to national laws and legislations of Non-Aligned Countries, in order to criminalize all terrorist acts as well as the support, financing or instigation of such acts;

421.49 The Heads of State and Government noted the hosting of 3rd No Money for Terror Conference by the Republic of India in New Delhi on 18 November 2022, and its proposal to establish a permanent Secretariat for the Conference in India and also noted the 49th Council of Foreign Ministers held in Mauritania from 16-17 March 2023 and the adoption of OIC Resolution 32/49-POL on combating Islamophobia and eliminating hatred and prejudice against Islam.

421.50 The Heads of State and Government commended the efforts of the UAE for hosting Hedayah, the International Center of Excellence for Countering Extremism and Violent Extremism (CVE) that works with practitioners, experts, state officials, and policy makers to develop responses that reduce radicalization, recruitment and the threat of violent extremism. The Heads of State and Government also welcomed the launch of the Anti-Da'esh Online Operations Centre in Abu Dhabi, dedicated to challenging the use of online media for incitement and recruitment by extremists;

421.51 The Heads of State and Government commended the co-chairmanship of the Kingdom of Morocco of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum, for three consecutive mandates, from 2015 until 2022, and welcomed Egypt co-chairmanship of the Forum starting May 2022;

421.52 The Heads of State and Government also *commended* the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt through the "Al-Azhar Observatory for Combating Extremism" in monitoring and analyzing manifestations of extremism at the national level, discrediting radical ideology and sensitization and awareness raising campaigns to promote coexistence, tolerance and refute radical ideology.

421.53 The Heads of State and Government took note of the hosting by the State of Kuwait of the "Conference on Combating Da'esh" on 13 February 2018 to confront the scourge of terrorism.

422. The Heads of State and Government condemned Daesh, and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida for ongoing terrorist acts that target the death of civilians and the destruction of property, cultural and religious sites in Iraq. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government also *condemned* the deliberate targeting and persecution of individuals and mass executions perpetrated on entire communities solely on the basis of their religion or beliefs. Additionally, the kidnapping of civilians for ransoms, forced displacement of members of minority groups, killing and maiming of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence, obstructing the exercise of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to education, are condemned in the strongest possible manner.

423. While recognizing that violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality civilization or ethnic group, the Heads of State and Government *urged* all Member States to unite against violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, *encouraged* the efforts of leaders, including religious leaders of all faiths to discuss within their communities the drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to evolve strategies to address them, and *underlined* that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and facilitating understanding, inclusive dialogue and respect for religious and cultural diversity and human rights.

424. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* that tolerance, pluralism, respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interreligious and intercultural understanding and respect among peoples, including at the national, regional and global levels, while avoiding the escalation of hatred, are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation, in combating terrorism and in countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and welcomes the various initiatives to this end.

425. The Heads of State and Government expressed grave concern over the increase in incitement to sectarian hatred, which has led to the rise in sectarian tensions and the acts of violence against different religious sects. They strongly *condemned* those extremist groups and preachers who preach hatred towards other sects and *urged* all Member States to ban the access of the groups and preachers of hate to public platforms and to take a proactive role in ensuring that interfaith dialogue and understanding are encouraged, promoted and protected. They *reiterated* the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for States' sovereignty, territorial integrity, friendly relations among nations, the right to self-determination of all peoples that are still under foreign occupation and alien domination;

426. The Heads of State and Government expressed deep concern over the misinterpretation and the misrepresentation of religions by terrorist groups to justify terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, seeking to instill hatred in the hearts and minds of the youth and justifying and glorifying brutality and violence. In this regard, they *reiterated* the necessity to effectively counter the narratives of terrorism through a

comprehensive and international framework, and in an effective and comprehensive way and address all its root causes, including through the engagement of community leaders and clerics from all denominations.

427. The Heads of State and Government *noted* that terrorists may craft distorted narratives that are based on the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of religion to justify violence, which are utilized to recruit supporters and foreign terrorist fighters, mobilize resources and garner support from sympathizers, in particular by exploiting information and communications technologies, including through the Internet and social media, and also note in this regard the urgent need for the international community to globally counter such activities.

428. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* that it is essential to address the threat posed by narratives used by terrorists, and that, in this regard, the international community should consider developing an accurate understanding of how terrorists motivate others to commit terrorist acts or recruit them, and develop the most effective means to counter terrorist propaganda, incitement and recruitment, including through the Internet, in compliance with applicable international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

429. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/243, which decided to declare 12 February as the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism, in order to raise awareness of the threats linked to violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism and to enhance international cooperation in this regard, and commended the efforts of the Republic of Iraq as the main sponsor for the resolution.

430. The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* all terrorist acts against critical infrastructure, including critical energy and nuclear facilities, and against other vulnerable targets, and urge all Member States to take all necessary measures to prevent such attacks, as well as their possible radiological, radioactive and environmental consequences, and to counter such terrorist acts, including the prosecution of perpetrators.

431. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need to maintain and strengthen the security and stability of international commercial navigation and energy supplies for all, and in this regard underlined the need for restraint from provocative actions against oil tankers and commercial ships, worldwide. Expressing their concern, in particular about the recent series of negative incidents in the international waters of the Strait of Hormouz, Sea of Oman, Red Sea and the Strait of Bab-Al-Mandeb, they reiterated that the whole global community shares a common vital interest in maintaining freedom of navigation and the free flow of oil and other resources for all to and from the Middle East and beyond.

432. The Heads of State and Government *condemned* in the strongest terms terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and all terrorist acts, including those on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace, and expressed determination to condemn violent extremism conducive to terrorism and incitement to commit terrorist acts which spread hate and threaten lives, also reaffirmed that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

433. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government *condemned* the recurrent attempts by radical and extremist elements to instigate violence and terrorism through the intentional desecration of mosques and burning of the Qur'an in a manner that promotes anti-minority, anti-immigrant, and Islamophobic narratives, and emphasized the duties of governments to take all the measures necessary to prevent such acts of hatred, which cannot and should not be justified under the pretext of freedom of speech or freedom of assembly.

434. The Heads of State and Government noted the UN Security Council PRST [S/PRST/2022/7] adopted under India's Presidency of the Security Council in December 2022. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government noted India's hosting of the Special Session of the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee in Mumbai and New Delhi on 28-30 October, 2022. They also noted the 48th Session of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting held on 22-23 March 2022 in Islamabad and the adoption of OIC Resolution No.8/48-Pol.

435. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the commitment of all religions to peace, dialogue, mutual respect, understanding and acceptance, condemning in the strongest terms terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and all terrorist acts, including those on the basis of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion or belief, recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and determined to condemn extremism conducive to terrorism and incitement to commit terrorist acts which spread hate and threaten lives, also reaffirming that terrorism and extremism conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

436. The Heads of State and Government took note of the convening of the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, held in New York on 8-9 September 2022.

437. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed and commended* the role of Iraq on leading a proposed inter-governmental negotiation to establish a voluntary trust sub fund focused on victims of terrorism.

Democracy

438. The Heads of State and Government reiterated that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives. They *reaffirmed* that while all democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy, that it does not belong to any country or region, and further *reaffirmed* the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination, and their rejection to any attempt to breakdown constitutional and democratic orders legitimately established by the peoples. They *expressed* their conviction that international co-operation for the promotion of democracy, on the basis of respect for the principles enshrined in the UN Charter as well as those of transparency, impartiality, non-selectivity and inclusiveness, could contribute to the attainment of the goal of democracy consolidation at national, regional and international levels.

439. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The international community should support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the entire world, without distinction between developed and developing countries, in compliance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

440. The Heads of State and Government recalled the constitutional processes that have been taking place in several Latin American countries as an expression of respect to and strengthening of democracy based on the freely expressed will and participation of the people of those countries to determine their own political, economic, legal, social and cultural systems.

441. The Heads of State and Government further *recalled* recent national efforts to strengthen democracy, equality, respect for human rights, social integration and economic development particularly in countries, such as in some Arab States, which started conducting major reforms in 2011 towards a better future for their peoples in political, economic and social fields and stressed the importance of the national ownership of these processes.

442. The Heads of State and Government also *recalled* the pledge by the leaders of UN Member States, as reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and *noted* the important role of the UN in the promotion and strengthening of democratic practices in Member States which have sought legal, technical and financial assistance. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the work of the UN Democracy Fund.

443. The Heads of State and Government stressed *the importance* of the Bali Democracy Forum initiated by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia which concluded its fifteenth meeting from 8 December 2022, as an intergovernmental forum to promote democracy, in its Member and Observer States from all regions, that is home-grown and not imposing, based on the principles of equal participation, sharing of experiences and best practices, dialogue and international cooperation. The Heads of State and Government also *took note* of the activities organized by the Institute for Peace and Democracy as the implementing agency of the Bali Democracy Forum.

444. The Heads of State and Government commended Mongolia and El Salvador for their Chairmanship of the Community of Democracies for the terms of 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 and called on the acting Chairmanship to continue working together with the Bali Democracy Forum and the International Conference of New or Restored Democracies and other relevant forums.

445. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to promote, defend and preserve these positions, The Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures, among others:

445.1 Work collectively for the promotion of democracy and for more inclusive political processes allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all countries, including seeking assistance from the UN on a voluntary basis;

445.2 Promote, while *recognizing* the importance of the promotion of democracy at the national level, the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the participation of developing countries in international decision-making; and

445.3 Oppose and condemn any politically motivated attempt or misuse of the international co-operation for the promotion of democracy, including the marginalization or exclusion of *Non-Aligned* Countries from the full participation and equal opportunities of membership in the intergovernmental bodies of the UN system.

446. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the 146th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, which was held in Manama in 2023 and attended by parliamentarians representing close to 140 countries. They took note of the Manama Declaration entitled “Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance” and a landmark resolution entitled “Cybercrimes: The new risks to global security”. In the Declaration, the participating parliamentarians pledged “to fight inequality through rights-based economic and social policies that put people before profit and the weak before the strong, and that uphold the equality and dignity of every person.” The declaration also urges parliamentarians “to implement the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 as the best hope for peace, democracy and sustainable development for all.”

North-South Dialogue and Cooperation

447. In acknowledging the need for an increased interaction between leaders of the developing and developed world, the Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures, among others:

447.1 Generate, expand and deepen a more dynamic relationship and cooperation with developed and industrialized countries, firmly rooted on mutual respect, mutuality of benefits, shared and differentiated responsibilities, constructive engagement and dialogue, broad partnership and genuine interdependence, with the aim of forging compatible or

complementary responses or initiatives on global issues, generating greater understanding, and narrowing the development gaps between the North and the South;

447.2 Continue to hold Ministerial Meetings between the NAM Troika and the European Union, within the framework of ordinary sessions of the General Assembly, aimed at facilitating comprehensive and transparent exchange of views of common interest to be addressed in the UNGA sessions;

447.3 Take note of the successful Ministerial meetings held by the Chair of the NAM with other interested parties, and continue to hold meetings, including at the Ministerial level, between the Chair of NAM and other interested parties, as appropriate, on issues of common interests;

447.4 Ensure that the views of developing countries are fully taken into account before decisions on relevant issues²¹ affecting them and the international community are made by developed countries, which could be achieved through, inter alia, institutionalizing established contacts between the leaders at the highest level of developing and developed countries, and in this context, *request* the Chair of the Movement to coordinate with the Chair of the Group of 77 and China to identify measures that could contribute towards achieving this objective including through strengthening of the Joint Coordination Committee; and

447.5 Call on international meetings and conferences to take into account the interests and concerns of developing countries including middle-income countries, and countries in special situations especially in the current situation and serious adverse impacts of the global economic and financial crises on their development, and *request* the Chair of the Movement to continue to convey those interests and concerns, inter alia, by means of declarations adopted by the NAM as appropriate;

447.6 Highlight the importance of North South Cooperation being aligned with national development priorities of recipient countries as well as the importance of increasing the efficiency of economic and technical cooperation, and development assistance.

447.7 The Heads of State and Government reiterated that international development cooperation, especially North-South cooperation, remains a fundamental catalyst to sustainable development. As North-South cooperation is the main channel of development financing, the international community must uphold the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR) and push North-South cooperation to continue to play its key role. Developed countries should bear the primary responsibility in financing for development. They urged developed countries to fulfill their unmet ODA commitments.

Role of Regional Organizations

448. The Heads of State and Government underscored the important role that regional and sub-regional arrangements and agencies, composed of Non-Aligned and other developing countries, can play in the promotion of regional peace and security as well as economic and social development through cooperation among countries in the region.

449. The Heads of State and Government highlighted the importance of synergy between regional and sub-regional initiatives to ensure complementarity and the added value of each process towards their common goals, such as political stability, economic growth, and social and cultural development.

²¹ The relevant issues include peace and security questions, including international terrorism, trade and finance policies, external debt and debt forgiveness/cancellation, the environment including climate change, and energy security

450. The Heads of State and Government called for the intensification of the process of consultations, cooperation, and coordination between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations, arrangements, or agencies, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, as well as on their mandate, scope and composition, which is useful and can contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

451. In this context, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the determination of the United Nations to enhance its relationship and cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations, in particular the African Union in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

452. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the UN Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and *called on* the international community to renew commitment for NEPAD and other related initiatives for Africa, noting in this regard the efforts exerted by the African Union and other regional economic communities in the area of economic integration, as well as ongoing efforts by the African Union in the operationalization of the provision contained in General Assembly resolution 59/213 and 69/290 highlighting the particular areas of required support by the UN system to the African Union, in the social, economic, political, peace and security areas, and express their full commitment to continue to advocate the necessity for continued international support required to meet the special needs of Africa as contained in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Africa's Agenda 2063.

453. The Heads of State and Government highlighted the importance of the Declaration on the New Asian African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) adopted in Bandung, Indonesia in 2005, and *welcomed* the holding and the outcome of the Asian-African Summit 2015 in Indonesia to further strengthen the NAASP which serves as the primary platform in enhancing cooperation between Asia and Africa. The Heads of State and Government further *called on* the international community to enhance cooperation under the framework of the NAASP as one of the measures to deepen partnership between developing countries, particularly between Asia and Africa.

454. The Heads of State and Government noted the importance of Forum for East Asia and Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) as the only forum between East Asia and Latin America to enhance mutual understanding and trust and to increase political, economic, social and cultural ties and dialogue, and *called on* its members to promote cooperation and partnership in its framework, including to collaborate to meet common global challenges.

455. The Heads of State and Government supported the continued efforts and commitments by ASEAN Member States to focus on advancing and strengthening an ASEAN Community building process enhancing and maintaining ASEAN Centrality and unity, and reinforcing further the ASEAN-centered regional architecture, towards the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government noted with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the Work Plan on Maintaining and Enhancing ASEAN Centrality.

456. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the strengthening of relations between the Movement and Observer Organizations, and in this regard, they *recognized* the important participation of the Chairmanship of the Movement in various high-level events and conferences convened by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) during 2017, upon its kind invitation.

CHAPTER II:
REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES

Middle East

Peace Process

457. The Heads of State and Government reiterated regret regarding the persistent failure of the peace process and the absence of a credible political horizon to bring an end to the illegal Israeli military occupation of the land of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and achieve the inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and freedom. They expressed grave concern about the dramatic worsening of the plight of the Palestinian people in the absence of the realization of their rights and a just solution for this protracted and historic injustice. They *stressed* the urgency of the achievement of a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and *called* for the exertion of urgent and collective efforts by all concerned parties to realize this long-overdue objective. They *stressed* that a peaceful solution of the question of Palestine in all aspects remains a priority on the Movement's agenda and urged all States to uphold their responsibilities and obligations in this regard. They *affirmed* their principled support in this regard and *stressed* their readiness to contribute to the achievement of a just and peaceful solution in accordance with international law the relevant United Nations resolutions and the longstanding international consensus.

458. The Heads of State and Government called for urgent collective efforts to this end, including immediate efforts to fully implement the relevant United Nations resolutions, including, *inter alia*, Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (2003), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1850 (2008) and 2334 (2016), which were strongly welcomed and supported by the Movement, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap. They *reiterated* the need for substantial and urgent progress to be made towards achieving an end to the unlawful Israeli occupation of all of the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including achievement of the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine in all of the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel in 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. They *stressed* the importance of respect for the longstanding terms of reference of a peace settlement in order to ensure the attainment of justice and a comprehensive, sustainable peace, and called on the Security Council to uphold its responsibilities in this regard.

459. The Heads of State and Government welcomed Security Council resolutions 2712 (2023) and 2720 (2023), and General assembly resolutions (A/RES/ES-10/21) and (A/RES/ES-10/22), and called for the full implementation of these resolutions, and called upon all States to cooperate with the UN mechanism established by Security Council resolution 2720 (2023) to accelerate the provision of humanitarian relief consignments to the Gaza Strip. They regretted however, that despite all efforts, including those promoted by Members of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council, that body continues to fall short in demanding an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, and urged it to fulfill its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, as provided for in the UN Charter, particularly by urgently demanding such a ceasefire.

460. The Heads of State and Government deplored the ongoing Israeli intransigence and illegal policies of the occupying power that greatly undermine the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including ongoing attempts to destroy and thwart the two-State solution. They *expressed grave concern* regarding the dangerous deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem especially the Gaza Strip, and stressed that the situation-is dire and unsustainable and requires immediate attention by the international community, particularly in regards to the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the vast suffering being endured by the Palestinian civilian population as a result of the Israeli military aggression carried out since 7 October 2023 and the complete siege imposed on the Gaza Strip. They demanded an end to

this aggression, stressing the urgency of an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, and reiterated their calls for an end to all ongoing, illegal measures, including the construction and expansion of settlements and the Wall, the confiscation of Palestinian land, demolitions of homes and the forced displacement of the Palestinian civilian population by other illegal means, as well as measures of collective punishment, including acts of blockade and siege, discrimination against and subjugation of the Palestinian people, including killings, widespread arrest and detention of civilians and repressive actions against Palestinian civil society organizations, journalists and medical and humanitarian personnel, which are in breach of international law and are totally contradictory to the objective of peace.

461. The Heads of State and Government deplored Israel's repeated obstruction of all previous international and regional peace efforts and its disrespect and violations of past agreements. They *stressed* the need for intensified, coordinated efforts, including measures of accountability, by the international community to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately cease all of its illegal policies and genuinely commit to a peaceful solution on the basis of the internationally-endorsed terms of reference, stressing that respect for international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, is the key to a peaceful solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.

462. The Heads of State and Government recalled the historic role and obligations of the international community, including the UN Security Council and General Assembly, towards advancing a just and comprehensive peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and regional stability. They *called upon* the international community as a whole to intensify actions to support and promote a credible peace process, under international auspices, including the United Nations, clearly aimed at the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence and at resolving all final status issues regarding the question of Palestine; namely, displaced persons, refugees, Jerusalem, settlements, borders, security, water and prisoners, underscoring that the just resolution of all of these issues is imperative for the conclusion of a comprehensive and final peace agreement. They *called upon* the Security Council to heed the appeals of the international community and to act with urgency to promote and support a just and peaceful solution and *called on* the members of the NAM Caucus of the Council to remain active in this regard.

463. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their support for the Arab Peace Initiative, which was adopted by the XIV Arab Summit in Beirut in March 2002, and endorsed repeatedly thereafter, confirming the commitment by the Arab States to a comprehensive peace. The Heads of State and Government deplored Israel's failure to seriously respond to this important initiative and to reciprocate in word and deed, and *called upon* it to do so forthwith in the interest of advancing comprehensive peace and security in the region. They *recognized* the active role of the Arab Ministerial Follow-up Committee in upholding the Arab Peace Initiative and supporting the peace process including through serious engagement with all concerned international partners.

Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

464. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the centrality of the Question of Palestine to the Non-Aligned Movement and *stressed* that the longstanding, common and principled positions that have been responsibly constructed on this subject over the past sixty years shall be defended, preserved and promoted, including through active participation by the Movement and its Members in relevant meetings, conferences and other relevant events, especially inter alia, within the context of the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations, as part of our continued efforts to put an end to colonialism, oppression, occupation and domination in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

465. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* their commitment to upholding the positions concerning Palestine adopted by the XVIII Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in October 2019, in Baku, Republic of

Azerbaijan, as well as by the recent NAM Ministerial Conferences and Meetings, including the principled positions set forth in the Declarations on Palestine adopted by the NAM Committee on Palestine, which constitute the guidelines for the Non-Aligned Countries on the question of Palestine. They *reaffirmed* their long-standing support and solidarity with the just cause of Palestine and strong commitment to continue supporting the Palestinian people and their leadership. They *underscored* the urgent need to continue providing political, economic and humanitarian support to assist the Palestinian people and to bolster their resilience and efforts aimed at achieving their legitimate national aspirations, including their inalienable rights to return and to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

466. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with deep regret that June 2023 marked the passage of fifty-six years since the onset of Israel's foreign occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands in 1967, and reflected on other solemn anniversaries in 2023, including the seventy-fifth anniversary of the 1948 Al-Nakba²² that befell the Palestinian people and called for the exertion and intensification of all necessary efforts to bring an end to this injustice and advance a peaceful and just solution. They welcomed the decision by the General Assembly to convene a solemn commemoration of Al-Nakba for the first time at the United Nations on 15 May 2023, and called for the exertion and intensification of all necessary efforts to bring an end to this injustice and advance a peaceful and just solution, including a just solution for the Palestine refugees in accordance with resolution 194 (III), which affirmed their right to return and to just compensation. They also *expressed* their deep regret that since 1967, for over half a century, the Palestinian people have continuously suffered under the brutal Israeli military occupation of their land and continue to be denied their fundamental human rights, including the right to self-determination.

467. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012, which accorded to Palestine the status of nonmember observer State in the United Nations, reflecting the international community's longstanding, principled support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence, and for the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. They *reaffirmed* the significance of this political achievement for the Palestinian people and the Government of the State of Palestine, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, and *expressed support* for further efforts to build on this historic development to enhance Palestine's status and rights in the international arena and to ensure its rightful place in the community of nations, including by the achievement of admission to membership in the United Nations. They *welcomed* in this regard the application for membership submitted, on 23 September 2011, requesting the admission of the State of Palestine, convinced that the early realization of this objective will be a major step towards the advancement of freedom, dignity, stability, peace and development for the Palestinian people and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to which all peoples are entitled. They *reaffirmed* their strong continued support to the admission process of the State of Palestine to become a full member of the United Nations as soon as possible, and *urged* immediate efforts towards securing its long-overdue admission as a Member State.

468. The Heads of State and Government also *recalled* the importance of the recent accessions by the State of Palestine to several international conventions, upholding the rule of international law and enhancing its ability to protect and promote the rights of the Palestinian people, and noted in particular its accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as an important step for countering impunity for war crimes, ensuring accountability and achieving justice.

469. The Heads of State and Government condemned Israel's continuing military occupation of the Palestinian Territory in breach of international law and UN resolutions. They *condemned*

²² This is the term commonly used to refer to the catastrophe and tragedy that befell the Palestinian people in 1948, by which they lost their homeland and by which the majority of Palestinians were forcibly uprooted from their homes and displaced, becoming refugees, whose plight continues until this day.

the continuing brutal Israeli military campaign against the defenseless Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip by which the occupying Power has continued to commit grave human rights violations and reported war crimes and crimes against humanity, including by use of excessive, indiscriminate force that over the years has killed and injured thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, including as a result of extrajudicial executions, as reported, inter alia, by the Independent Commission of Inquiry of the Human Rights Council and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. They deplored the killing of over 21,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in the period between October and December 2023, over 70% of whom were children and women, and the wounding and maiming of over 55,000 Palestinian children, women and men in bombardments by air, land and sea by the Israeli occupying forces, as well as ongoing attacks by occupying forces and settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, that killed over 300 Palestinians, including 79 children, and wounded more than 3,800 people in the same period, in addition to the killing of 200 other Palestinians in 2023. They expressed grave concern regarding the warnings by United Nations Special Rapporteurs of an “unfolding genocide” in the Gaza Strip, and called for an immediate halt to all attacks on civilians, for the protection of the Palestinian civilian population in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire towards the achievement of a permanent and sustained cessation of hostilities. They called for the immediate implementation of General Assembly resolutions ES-10/21 of 27 October 2023 and ES-10/22 of 12 December 2023, which unequivocally demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

470. The Heads of State and Government also deplored other illegal Israeli policies and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which continue unabated. They condemned, inter alia, its vast destruction of Palestinian homes and properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands, including in the Gaza Strip where Israel has destroyed or damaged over 60% of the housing and destroyed other civilian objects, including schools, hospitals, UNRWA facilities sheltering displaced persons, mosques, churches and bakeries. They also *condemned* all illegal Israeli settlement activities by which the occupying Power has continued to colonize the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to forcibly displace thousands of Palestinian civilians in grave breach of international law. They *deplored* Israel’s forced displacement of over 1.9 million Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, more than 1.8 million of whom are sheltering in overcrowded and unsanitary UN shelters and deprived of basic human necessities. They *expressed* grave concern about ongoing Israeli threats at the forced transfer and mass deportation of the Palestinian civilian population, demanded an immediate and complete halt to all such illegal policies and actions, and reiterated the calls for protection of the Palestinian people in accordance with international humanitarian law.

471. The Heads of State and Government further *condemned* the provocations and incitement by groups of extremist settlers, including against the holy sites in occupied East Jerusalem and the vandalization of mosques churches and attacks on clergy and Muslim and Christian worshippers, stressing that such actions are fueling tensions and religious sensitivities that risk further destabilization. They condemned also the arming of settlers and all attacks perpetrated against Palestinian civilians, and called once again for the implementation of Security Council resolution 904 (1994) and protection of the Palestinian people. They also *condemned* Israel’s imposition of collective punishment on the Palestinian people by various illegal measures, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which has been subjected to an illegal Israeli blockade since 2007 and a total siege since October 2023, by which Israel has severely restricted vital humanitarian assistance, depriving the Palestinian civilian population of access to lifesaving aid and sufficient supplies of food, water, medicine and fuel and leading to dramatic levels of hunger and malnutrition, illness and disease, and human suffering. They condemned all racist and discriminatory legislation and measures by Israel against the Palestinian people, noting with deep concern recent reports by international, Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations concluding that such policies and measures amount to apartheid.

472. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all such violations of international law, including international

humanitarian and human rights law, and fully abide by its legal obligations, including under the 4th Geneva Convention. The Heads of State and Government of the Movement that are Party to the Rome Statute also *affirmed* the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for addressing reported war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed by Israel against the Palestinian people, and *emphasized* the centrality of justice in bringing an end to such crimes and impunity. They echoed the call by the UN Special Procedures mandate holders of 16 November 2023 of the obligation by the international community to prevent the risk of genocide in the Gaza Strip and take all measures to put an end to that. They welcomed also the 29 December 2023 application filed by a Member State of the Movement, South Africa, instituting proceedings against Israel before the ICJ concerning alleged violations by Israel of its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in relation to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

473. The Heads of State and Government reiterated *their grave concern* about the plight of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and elected officials, held captive in Israeli prisons and detention centers, which number over 10,000 persons, and about ongoing arrest raids being carried out by the Israeli occupying forces. They *deplored* Israel's ill-treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including reported torture, solitary confinement, prolonged administrative detention, inadequate access to proper medical care, education and family visits, subjection to military trials, unsanitary conditions of detention in grave violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and human rights law. They *reiterated their deep concern* about the death of several prisoners due to abuse and medical negligence.

474. The Heads of State and Government expressed *grave concern* in particular over Palestinian child prisoners and detainees, and *demanding* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease the abhorrent practice of imprisoning children, including by means of administrative detention, and that it respects its obligations under international law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They called on the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to give due attention to such repeated violation of child rights by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for the necessary efforts for deterrence and accountability to be pursued in this regard. They *called again for* proper international access to Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including children, and inspection of their conditions. They also *renewed the call* for the immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails, reaffirming the Ministerial Declaration on Palestinian Political Prisoners of Bali (May 2011) and Sharm El Sheikh (May 2012), as well as the Communiqué issued by the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement on 21 April 2017. They *expressed support* for all efforts in this regard, including the "*International Campaign for the Freedom of Marwan Barghouti and all Palestinian Prisoners*", and welcomed the "*Robben Island Declaration*".

475. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated their condemnation* in the strongest terms the recurrent Israeli military aggressions against the Gaza Strip, the latest of which was launched in October 2023, which have resulted in the killing and injury of Palestinians, the overwhelming majority civilians, including women and children, the displacement of thousands of civilians and the wanton and deliberate destruction of and damage to hundreds of thousands of Palestinian homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electricity networks, schools, hospitals, mosques churches, public institutions, business properties, farms and more than 100 UN facilities, the majority of them UNRWA schools, all in grave breach of international humanitarian law. They *called upon* Israel to immediately cease the perpetration of military aggression in all manifestations against the Palestinian people under its occupation. They also *expressed grave concern* over the extreme exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis there as the entire Palestinian civilian population continues to be inhumanely isolated, besieged and deprived by the Israeli blockade, which constitutes massive collective punishment and a grave breach of international humanitarian and human rights law. They *recalled* in this regard the Declaration adopted by the Ministerial Meeting, held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran in August 2014 which expressed NAM's unwavering support for the just cause of Palestine.

476. The Heads of State and Government called for an immediate end to the Israeli military aggression and siege on the Gaza Strip and for immediate, unimpeded and sufficient humanitarian assistance at scale to meet the enormous needs of the Palestinian civilian population and to enable urgently needed reconstruction and recovery, especially of homes and vital infrastructure, including in particular of hospitals, schools and water, sanitation and electricity networks. They *stressed* the urgency of delivery of humanitarian aid and recovery efforts towards alleviating the vast human suffering and catastrophic; and humanitarian, socio-economic, psychosocial and environmental conditions. They called for the immediate and full implementation of Security Council resolutions 2712 (2023) and 2720 (2023) and General Assembly resolutions ES- 10/21 of 27 October 2023 and ES-10/22 of 12 December 2023.

477. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their call for the complete lifting of the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip and called upon Israel to promptly and unconditionally open all its crossing points with the Strip, in accordance with international humanitarian law and all UN resolutions, including Security Council resolution 1860 (2009). They *welcomed* the appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General of a Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza to facilitate, coordinate, monitor and verify humanitarian relief consignments to Gaza, pursuant to Security Council resolution 2720 (2023), and urged the rapid establishment of the mandated mechanism to accelerate relief. They also *reiterated* their call for urgent efforts to ensure the immediate, sustained and regular opening of all border crossing points into and out of the Gaza Strip to allow for the movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian assistance, medical supplies, food, fuel supplies, construction materials and commercial flows, including exports, necessary for alleviation of the humanitarian catastrophe and the staggering levels of unemployment and poverty exacerbated by the Israeli aggression, siege and blockade and for supporting reconstruction and economic recovery. They *expressed* their appreciation to the Egyptian efforts in facilitating humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people through the Rafah Border crossing, throughout the duration of the Israeli aggression. They *stressed* that the crisis situation in the Gaza Strip must be comprehensively addressed, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and the relevant UN resolutions, in the overall context of the belligerent Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territory since 1967, including East Jerusalem, with a view to addressing the root causes, bringing the occupation to a complete end, and achieving a just and lasting peace.

478. The Heads of State and Government further condemned in the strongest terms the repeated aggression by Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian refugees in the Jenin refugee camp, including the killing and injuring of civilians, the targeting and destroying of homes and civilian infrastructure, forcibly displacing civilians out of the camp, obstructing medical crews from reaching the injured and firing at journalists, and holds Israel, the occupying Power, and its officials responsible for the repercussions of this onslaught which will only deepen instability and violence and seriously threaten international peace and security; and reiterate their calls in this regard on the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Security Council to act swiftly to provide international protection for the Palestinian people, including in the refugee camps in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as per their obligations.

479. The Heads of State and Government commended the pivotal role played by Egypt to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation caused by the illegal Israeli war on the Gaza Strip, and its efforts to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and relief consignments to the Gaza Strip and to evacuate the injured and critical medical cases.

480. The Heads of State and Government rejected any individual or mass forcible transfer and deportation of Palestinians from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including to any other country, which amounts to a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions.

481. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the relevant reports of the Independent Commission of Inquiry (COI) established by the Human Rights Council, pursuant to its resolution S-30/1 of 27 May 2021, to investigate all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel leading

up to and since April 2021, and recalled also other relevant inquiries and reports of the Secretary-General related to the violations of international law and human rights law on Children and Armed Conflict, and called for continuous follow-up, including, *inter alia*, in the Security Council, to ensure accountability. They *deplored* that Israel has continued to deliberately ignore the recommendations made in the above-mentioned reports, resolutions and inquiries without consequence, and reiterated their call to the international community, including the Security Council, for establishing accountability for the grave breaches and crimes perpetrated, including the repeated military aggressions against the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, and for justice for the victims of these crimes. They also *stressed* that, in addition to violating countless provisions of human rights law, such collective punishment measures by Israel are tantamount to grave breaches of international humanitarian law, by which it is bound as the occupying Power and with which it must scrupulously comply. They *stressed* in this regard the need to ensure protection for the Palestinian civilian population in accordance with international humanitarian law and the relevant Security Council resolutions regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict and in accordance with General Assembly resolution ES-10/20 and the relevant report of the Secretary General.

482. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the obligations of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities. They welcomed the reconvening of the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to ensure its respect in accordance with common article 1, as called for by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. They *expressed appreciation* to Switzerland, in its capacity as Depository of the *Geneva* Conventions, for convening the Conference. They *welcomed* the Declaration endorsed by the Conference, reaffirming, *inter alia*, the statement of 15 July 1999 and the Declaration of 5 December 2001 and 17 December 2014; expressing deep concern about the continued impact of the Israeli occupation; and calling upon Israel, the occupying Power, to fully and effectively respect the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

483. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the urgency of reconstructing Gaza, particularly following the massive destruction inflicted by the occupying Power in July and August 2014 May 2021 and in the current Israeli military aggression that began in October 2023. They *called upon* the international community to fulfill the pledges made at the Conference on Palestine hosted by Egypt and Norway in Cairo on 12 October 2014 for reconstruction, humanitarian aid and development in Gaza. They expressed appreciation for the Egyptian initiative to implement reconstruction projects equivalent to \$500 million after the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip in 2021. They extended their appreciation for the decision of the Algerian Government to donate 100 million USD to support the Palestinian Authority. They urged rapid fulfilment of pledges made at the International Humanitarian Conference for Gaza's Civilian Population, convened in Paris on 9 November 2023, towards alleviating the humanitarian catastrophe and meeting the immense humanitarian needs of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip.

484. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their categorical condemnation of Israel's continuing illegal campaign of settler colonization in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. They also *condemned* the violence, terror, provocations and incitement by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, orchards, mosques and churches. They *deplored* all illegal Israeli actions associated with this destructive colonization campaign, particularly ongoing land confiscations; the construction and expansion of illegal settlements, settlement "outposts" and settlement infrastructure; the transfer of more Israeli settlers; the construction of the Wall; home demolitions; residency revocations; forced displacement of civilians; excavations; and the imposition of arbitrary and racist residency and movement restrictions via a permit regime and hundreds of checkpoints throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in and around Occupied East Jerusalem.

485. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* that such policies and measures by Israel, the occupying Power, constitute grave breaches of international law and flagrant defiance of UN resolutions and the 9 July 2004 and 7 August 2023 Advisory Opinions of the International Court of Justice, and in this regard *recalled* the responsibilities of States not to support, facilitate or cooperate, directly or indirectly, with such unlawful policies and to undertake practical measures to bring them to a halt. They *urged* the undertaking of serious efforts, collectively and individually, to ensure respect of the legal obligations defined in the ICJ Advisory Opinion, including by the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention. They stressed also the importance of the request by the General Assembly on 30 December 2022 for an advisory opinion by the ICJ regarding the legal consequences and obligations resulting from the continuation of such illegal policies and practices, the prolongation of Israel's occupation, the denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and discriminatory measures against them, and encouraged Members of the Movement to participate in the Court's advisory proceedings.

486. The Heads of State and Government demanded an immediate cessation and reversal of all such illegal activities. They *expressed deep concern about* the extensive physical, economic and social devastation being caused by the Israeli settlements, Wall and network of checkpoints, which are severing the Palestinian Territory into separate areas, including several walled cantons; isolating East Jerusalem from the rest of the Territory; forcibly displacing thousands of Palestinians from their homes, including many Bedouin families, particularly in the Jordan Valley; and completely destroying some communities. They *stressed* that such actions gravely undermine the contiguity, integrity, viability and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and jeopardize the prospects for physically achieving the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the 1967 borders. They *recalled* in this regard the "*United Nations Register of Damage caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*", and *called* for the speedy fulfillment of its mandate in order to redress the losses and suffering being endured by the Palestinian people as a result of the Wall.

487. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* all relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for a cessation of all Israeli settlement activities, including those relating to Jerusalem and confirming that it is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory; *demanding* their full implementation; and *considered* that all Israeli measures aimed at altering the legal, geographic and demographic character and status of Jerusalem and of the Occupied Palestinian Territory as a whole are null and void and have no legal validity whatsoever. They also *recalled* Israel's obligations under the Quartet Roadmap to freeze all settlement activities, including so-called "natural growth". They *reaffirmed* that these unlawful measures will not be recognized by the international community and cannot alter the terms of reference of a peaceful solution nor negate the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and stressed that all such measures must be ceased and reversed towards bringing an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that began in 1967.

488. The Heads of State and Government expressed *alarm* about continued violations, provocations and incitement by Israeli Occupation Authorities, extremists and officials in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly at Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which have aggravated tensions and religious sensitivities and resentment and risk the outbreak of a religious conflict. They emphasized that to face the serious violations suffered by the Palestinian people, it is necessary to revitalize and reactivate the relevant mechanisms of support and solidarity and ensure their protection, including through the implementation of the tools provided by the resolution 904 of the security council that provides measures to ensure the security and protection of Palestinian civilians in the territories occupied by Israel. They deplored and called for the immediate cessation of all policies and measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the City of Jerusalem, stressing that such actions have no legal validity and are null and void, as determined by the Security Council of the United Nations. They further reaffirmed all Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relating to Jerusalem and confirming that it is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. They reiterated their urgent calls for the cessation of all violations, provocations and aggressions in Occupied

East Jerusalem and for respect for the sanctity of holy sites, rejecting any attempts to alter the historic and legal status quo.

489. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed support for Jordan in preserving and administrating the Islamic and Christian Holy sites in Jerusalem, including Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram al-Sharif and the Hashemite historic Custodianship of the holy sites as exercised by His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn al-Husain of Jordan. They stressed that the "Department of Jerusalem's Awqaf and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs" of Jordan, is the sole and exclusive authority to administer Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif. They also *recalled* the International Conference on Jerusalem held in Doha in February 2012 and welcomed the establishment of the "Jerusalem Support Fund" by the State of Qatar, and expressed support for the "Palestinian Strategic Plan for the Development of the Vital Sectors in Jerusalem". They *further stressed* the need to approach the appropriate United Nations bodies to establish an international commission to investigate all the measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the City aimed at altering and erasing its Islamic and Arab features and status.

490. The Heads of State and Government commended the efforts of His Majesty King Mohammed VI as Chair of Al-Quds Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and welcomed in this regard the conclusions and the final communiqué of the 20th session of Al-Quds Committee, held in Marrakech, Morocco on 17-18 January 2014. They recalled the outcome of the first meeting of the OIC Ministerial Contact Group on defending the cause of Palestine and protecting the City of Al-Quds held in Rabat, Morocco, on 12 November 2014, chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco, with the participation of Azerbaijan, Egypt, Guinea, Jordan, Malaysia, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the OIC Secretary General. They *expressed* their support to the approved set of practical measures to support the State of Palestine, strengthen the resilience of the people of Jerusalem in their city.

491. The Heads of State and Government strongly *urged* all Member States to support Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the executive arm of the Al Quds Committee chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, in order to help the steadfastness of the inhabitants of Al-Quds.

492. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the "Call for Al Quds/Jerusalem" signed in Rabat, on March 30th 2019, by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco and His Holiness Pope Francis to stress the important role that Al Quds/Jerusalem plays as a city of tolerance and mutual respect among the people of the three monotheistic religions and stressed the need to preserve its specificities and its features as a city of peaceful coexistence.

493. The Heads of State and Government commended the efforts exerted by the OIC Ministerial Contact Group in Charge of Defending the Cause of Al-Quds Al Shareef and Palestine, mainly the recommendations contained in the *communiqué*, adopted by the Second Meeting held, under the chairmanship of the Kingdom of Morocco, in New York on 26 September 2015, on the margins of the 70th Session of the General Assembly.

494. The Heads of State and Government reiterated *their firm rejection and denunciation* of the 6 December 2017 unilateral decision by the Government of the United States of America to recognize the City of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to transfer the American Embassy to Israel to the City and called for the US Government to reverse and rescind its decision. They cautioned that this provocative decision has further emboldened the occupying Power's illegal policies and practices and heightened tensions, with potentially far-reaching repercussions. They categorically *rejected* these and any other related actions recognizing Israel's illegal measures and claims in the City aimed at consolidating Israel's unlawful control and *de facto* annexation of the City, in grave breach of international law and direct contravention of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including 476 (1980), 478 (1980) and 2334 (2016). They *considered* this decision as null and void, and to be without any legal effect; and they affirmed the need for the protection and preservation of the unique spiritual, religious and cultural dimensions of the City, in accordance with relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

495. The Heads of State and Government *strongly welcomed* in this regard the adoption of the General Assembly resolution ES-10/19 on 21 December 2017 by an overwhelming majority, reaffirming the relevant resolutions; reiterating the call upon all States to refrain from establishment of diplomatic missions in the Holy City of Jerusalem, pursuant to resolution 478 (1980) of the Security Council; and stressed that Jerusalem is a final status issue to be resolved through negotiations in line with relevant UN resolutions. They *welcomed* also the Final Communiqué of the Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul on 13 December 2017, including the participation of His Excellency Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in his capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the conclusions of the Arab Ministerial Meeting held in Cairo on 09 December 2017 rejecting the unilateral decision of the United States.

496. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the efforts exerted by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, in his capacity as President of the Committee Al-Quds, and noted with appreciation the letters sent to His Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 25 July 2017, condemning the Israeli violations in Al Haram Al Sharif, as well as his letter dated 07 December 2017, following the decision made by the American Administration to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, in flagrant violation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

497. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the calls for a full cessation of all illegal colonial activities by Israel, which entrench its fifty-six years' illegal military occupation in contradiction to legal obligations and the consensus global calls for an end to the occupation. They *cautioned* that only a small chance remains to salvage the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders, which, if thwarted, would require the consideration of alternative solutions to end this prolonged conflict and injustice and realize the inalienable rights and freedom of the Palestinian people. If faced with continued Israeli defiance, they *called for* urgent action and practical measures and the intensification of efforts by the international community, collectively as well as individually, to compel the occupying Power to cease completely its settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to abide forthwith by all of its obligations under international law.

498. The Heads of State and Government welcomed, in this regard, the adoption of resolution 2334 on 23 December 2016 by the Security Council, and *welcomed* the leading role played by the members of NAM Caucus in that body in line with its Charter duty for the maintenance of international peace and security. They *recalled* that resolution 2334 (2016), *inter alia*, reaffirmed the illegality of Israeli settlement activities; reiterated the demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; underlined that the Council will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations; and called upon all States to distinguish in their relevant dealings between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied in 1967.

499. The Heads of State and Government condemned the occupying Power's contempt of the Security Council and *called for* immediate measures to implement resolution 2334 (2016) and all other relevant resolutions regarding the Palestine question and to hold Israel accountable for its violations and grave breaches. They *stressed* the importance of the reports by the Secretary-General pursuant to the resolution for monitoring implementation, and *called for* serious follow-up by the Security Council to ensure respect of its resolutions and accountability aimed at achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation and a just and lasting peace.

500. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas and emphasized the importance of protecting and strengthening national, democratic Palestinian institutions, including the Palestinian Legislative Council. They reiterated the importance of Palestinian unity for preserving the unity and integrity of the Palestinian Territory and for the realization of the just, legitimate national rights and

aspirations of the Palestinian people. They *welcomed* the efforts of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the “Agreement to End Palestinian Division”, signed in Cairo on October 2017 (S/2017/899). In this connection, they *urged* the achievement of Palestinian reconciliation based on that agreement as well as the 2011 Cairo and 2012 Doha agreements and *commended* the serious efforts undertaken in this regard by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Government of the State of Qatar, the League of Arab States and all other concerned regional parties to bring the sides together to end division and achieve reconciliation as a positive step towards national unity. They *urged* the implementation of agreements reached in this regard, stressing that unity is vital for achieving the inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people. They *called on* the international community to respect and support Palestinian reconciliation and to reject and demand a halt to Israeli punitive measures in this regard and called for support of the Palestinian national consensus government.

501. The Heads of State and Government called *for* urgent efforts to further support the development and strengthening of Palestinian national institutions, stressing the importance of this effort in laying strong foundations for the independence of the State of Palestine. In this connection, they strongly *welcomed* the important step taken, including by several Members of the Movement, in extending official recognition to the State of Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders, and the calls for recognition by numerous European parliaments. They *considered* that such recognition constitutes a significant contribution to sustaining momentum towards the ultimate realization of independence. They *reiterated the hope* that all Members of the Movement would extend recognition to Palestine at this time, remaining at the forefront of support of this historic march of the Palestinian people to realize their inalienable human rights, including to self-determination in their independent and sovereign State, to redress the historic injustice they have endured, and to achieve peace.

502. The Heads of State and Government *called* for intensification of efforts by the entire international community, particularly the Security Council, to address the current political and humanitarian crises, in order to alleviate the dire conditions on the ground, de-escalate tensions and help advance a credible and just peace solution, based on clear parameters and within a set timeframe, towards the achievement of a solution that guarantees the complete end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that began in 1967, and the independence of a sovereign, contiguous, and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital as well as a just solution for the Palestine refugee problem based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III), which affirmed the right of the refugees to return and to just compensation. They *stressed* that such a solution is essential for the promotion of comprehensive peace and security in the region.

503. The Heads of State and Government expressed *deep concern* about the critical situation and heightened vulnerability of Palestine refugees in the recent period, particularly in the Gaza Strip as a result of the Israeli military aggression and siege and due to the instability and crises throughout the region, which underscores the regional dimension of this problem and the urgent need for a just, comprehensive solution. They *commended* the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in providing vital support and emergency assistance to the Palestine refugees in all fields of operation, particularly for the most vulnerable in the Gaza Strip, where the Agency is providing a lifeline of aid for repeatedly displaced, dispossessed and destitute refugee families, and, in Syria and Lebanon, and *urged* increased donor support to the Agency for the implementation of its General Assembly mandate. They also reaffirmed their strong political support for UNRWA, in line with the United Nations’ permanent responsibility until achievement of a just solution for the Question of Palestine, and *recognized* the Agency’s decades-long contribution to the human development and protection of the Palestine refugees and the promotion of their rights and dignity as well as its contribution to stability in region. They expressed their condolences for the loss of human life of UNRWA staff as a result of Israel’s attacks in Palestine.

504. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the outcome of the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference entitled “Preserving Dignity and Sharing Responsibility – Mobilizing

Collective Action for UNRWA” held on 15 March 2018, in Rome, and convened by Foreign Ministers of Jordan, Sweden and Egypt as co-chairs, where the participants *expressed* powerful political support for UNRWA, its mandate and its critical services to the Palestine refugees and stressed the importance of the follow-up Ministerial meetings convened in this regard, the most recent in September 2023. They *welcomed* also the additional generous pledges made to UNRWA by numerous donor countries and organizations, including in the region in helping to address the Agency’s unprecedented funding shortfall, and to sustain its vital services, and emergency assistance to Palestine refugees, especially in this time of humanitarian catastrophe and enormous needs among the refugees in the Gaza Strip.

505. The Heads of State and Government *strongly urged* all Member States, regional and international financial institutions, and non-governmental organizations to urgently address the chronic funding shortfalls faced by UNRWA by increasing their contributions to the Agency, endorsing a larger assessed contribution from the United Nations, and supporting UNRWA’s necessary and valuable role in promoting the well-being, protection and human development of the Palestine refugees, until a just and lasting solution is found to their plight, in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

506. The Heads of State and Government commended the many bilateral and multilateral efforts in the political, humanitarian, social, economic and developmental fields, undertaken by the Non-Aligned countries in support of the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve their inalienable rights and full independence. They welcomed, inter alia, the initiative of Indonesia in establishing the New Asian African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) Capacity Building Programs for Palestine, the efforts regarding Palestine by the Summit of South American-Arab Countries (ASPA) as well as the Co-Chairmanship of Japan, Indonesia and Palestine in conducting the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD). They also recognized the efforts of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the contributions of Members of the Movement in this regard. They called for the intensification of all such cooperation and support in line with the principled positions of the Movement. In this context, they *recalled* the State of Kuwait’s efforts to convene an international conference on the widespread and systematic violations of the rights of Palestinian children, thousands of whom have been tragically killed, maimed, orphaned, arrested and detained, and forcibly displaced, by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied territory of the State of Palestine, especially in the Gaza Strip.

507. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the necessity of upholding international law, and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter with regard to the question of Palestine under all circumstances and called for the implementation of all relevant UN resolutions. They urged the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution that calls for an immediate and complete end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine without delay. They *reaffirmed* the permanent responsibility of the UN towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects on the basis of international law and *stressed* the need for all relevant UN organs, committees and specialized agencies to continue exerting efforts to this end in accordance with the relevant resolutions. They *reiterated* the call upon the UN not to reward illegal actions and intransigence and to increase its efforts towards the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace and the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, whose existence in their homeland is being undermined and threatened by the continuation of Israel’s illegal occupation and its violent and unlawful policies and practices against them. They *called for* coordinated, collective efforts at the governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental levels for realizing these objectives in the year 2024.

508. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the decision issued by the emergency Arab-Islamic summit held in Riyadh on November 11, 2023 which included demands to halt Israeli aggression, lift the siege on Gaza, ensure the entry of urgent humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip, and reject the forced displacement of the Strip's population

509. Consistent with, and guided by, the afore-mentioned principled positions, and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures:

509.1 Continue holding meetings at the ministerial level of the NAM Committee on Palestine, within the framework of the Coordinating Bureau Ministerial Meetings that take place at the outset of UNGA regular sessions and during any other Ministerial Meetings and Summits of the Movement, whenever necessary and in accordance with the developments on this issue, to mobilize support for the Palestinian people as well as responsible action at the international and regional levels, including in parliaments, to address such developments and promote peace on the basis of international law and the relevant resolutions in this regard;

509.2 Maintain regular contacts and dialogue at the ministerial level between the NAM Ministerial Delegation on Palestine and the members of the UN Security Council, the Quartet and the Arab Ministerial Follow-up Committee, with a view to coordinating and enhancing the role played by NAM in the international efforts seeking a solution to the question of Palestine and lasting peace in the region;

509.3 Enhance contacts and coordination with civil society to mobilize international awareness and public opinion on this issue towards making a substantial contribution to attaining a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Occupied Syrian Golan

510. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that all measures and actions taken, or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, such as its illegal decision of 14 December 1981 that purports to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its institutional structure, as well as the Israeli measures to apply its jurisdiction and administration there, are null and void and have no legal effect. They further *reaffirmed* that all such measures and actions, including the illegality of Israeli settlement construction and expansion activities in the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967, constitute a flagrant violation of international law, international conventions, the Charter and decisions of the UN, particularly Security Council Resolution 497 (1981), the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, and the defiance of the will of the international community. They *reiterated* the Movement's demand that Israel comply with Security Council Resolution 497 (1981) and withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967, in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and that Israel should adhere to the Madrid terms of reference based on the principle of land for peace and international legitimacy, which are in their entirety considered to be a primary and basic element in the negotiation process that should be adhered to, including the immediate commencement of the demarcation of the 4 June 1967 line.

511. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the Movement's unwavering support and solidarity with the Syrian just demand and rights to restore the full Syrian sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan on the basis of the terms of reference of the Arab Peace Initiative, the Madrid Peace Process, as well as the principle of land for peace and in accordance with relevant Security Council Resolutions. They again *demand* that Israel, the occupying power respects all its commitments and pledges.

512. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their demand for Israel to comply immediately and unconditionally with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War, dated 12 August 1949, and to apply them to the Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan. They *strongly condemned* the Israeli brutal practices in Israeli occupation prisons, and *expressed their grave concern* at the inhuman conditions of the Syrian detainees in the occupied Syrian Golan, which have led to the deterioration of their

physical health and put their lives at risk, in a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

513. The Heads of State and Government called *upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to reopen the Quneitra entry point, to facilitate the visits of the Syrian citizens under Israeli occupation to their motherland, Syria.

514. The Heads of State and Government condemned the statement made by the President of the United States of America on 21 March 2019 regarding the Occupied Syrian Golan as well as the subsequent unilateral and arbitrary proclamation on "Recognizing the Golan Heights as part of Israel". And in this regard, the Heads of State and Government request the Security Council of the United Nations to shoulder its responsibility by clearly condemning this provocative statement and proclamation as they constitute an escalatory and grave violation of the International law, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 497 (1981).

Lebanon, the Remaining Occupied Lebanese Lands, and the Consequences of the Israeli Aggression against Lebanon

515. The Heads of State and Government expressed support to national efforts to elect a president and form a government. They also expressed solidarity with Lebanon in its efforts to respond effectively to the immediate domestic economic, political and humanitarian challenges that exacerbated after the Beirut port explosion in August 2020. They also welcomed the steady efforts of the Government in working in close cooperation with the international community, including the "International Support Group for Lebanon" in order to respond effectively to the immediate domestic and regional, political, security, humanitarian and development challenges facing the country. They expressed their support for the continued institutional efforts to consolidate national solidarity and to reinforce the authority of the State over all its territories.

516. The Heads of State and Government commended the resilience of the State's institutions and the generosity of the Lebanese people in hosting a large number of Syrian nationals displaced into the Lebanese territory since 2011, in addition to half a Million Palestinian refugees, which makes Lebanon today the country with the highest ratio of displaced and refugees, both per capita and per square kilometer in the world. They hailed the efforts of the Lebanese Armed Forces in fighting terrorist groups and maintaining security. The Heads of State and Government further welcomed the strong international commitment to support the Lebanese Armed Forces through its Capabilities Development Plan and also commended the ongoing support to Lebanon by all friendly countries including NAM countries and the Arab and Islamic countries.

517. The Heads of State and Government commended Lebanon's generosity facing the mass influx of Syrian nationals displaced into its territory, and reiterated the importance of demonstrating international solidarity towards Lebanon in sharing this burden and to continue providing direct support to the Lebanese Government institutions.

518. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the vital necessity to intensify efforts enabling the return of Syrian displaced to Syria, in light of the Lebanese position that rejects any form of permanent settlement or local integration in Lebanon. They stressed that a holistic action oriented approach in this regard will ease the pressure on Lebanon as a host country that was significantly impacted by the repercussions of the Syrian crisis on all levels.

519. The Heads of State and Government *condemned* the Israeli attacks against Lebanon since the start of the war on Gaza, and the repeated violations of its sovereignty by land, sea and air. They also condemned Israel's use of internationally prohibited weapons on civilian targets, especially white phosphorus, and the indiscriminate bombing of villages in southern Lebanon, in addition to the targeting of civilians, journalist, Lebanese Armed Forces bases and UNIFIL peacekeeping forces bases. They expressed solidarity with and support for the Government and people of Lebanon, hailed their heroic resistance to the Israeli aggression, and emphasized the

primordial importance of Lebanon's national unity and stability and expressed strong condemnation of the continued serious violations by Israel of the Lebanese territorial integrity and sovereignty, by air, land and sea. They expressed as well their support for the Government of Lebanon's position, which calls on the international community for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701(2006) and to put an end to the ongoing Israeli violations to this resolution and to the continuous threats against Lebanon, acts of espionage and electronic warfare it is launching against Lebanon; and which reiterates Lebanon's demand based on this resolution, for a permanent cease-fire and also demands Israel to adhere to the Truce Agreement, as provided for in the Taef agreement; and which also demands Israel to compensate Lebanon for the damage it has inflicted as a result of its obsessive aggression upon it. Moreover, they charged Israel with full responsibility for the consequences of its aggression against Lebanon in 2006 and demanded Israel to fully implement the relevant General Assembly Resolutions on the "Oil slick on Lebanese shores", the last one of which being Resolution 78/143 adopted on 19 December 2023.

520. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* the necessity to have Israel withdraw from all Lebanese territories including Shebaa Farms, Kfarshouba Hills and the occupied lands in the outskirts of the town Al-Mari, which partly includes the urban expansion of the village of Ghajar, in accordance with relevant international resolutions and in particular Security Council resolution 1701; expressed their support for the right of Lebanon and its people, to liberate or return the Shebaa Farms and Kfarshouba Hills and the outskirts of the town Al-Mari, which partly includes the urban expansion of the village of Ghajar, to resist any aggression and to defend Lebanon by all legitimate and available means; and further emphasized Lebanon's commitment to Security Council Resolution 1701.

521. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the right of Lebanon to its oil and water and gas resources, especially those located within its exclusive economic zone. They welcomed in this regard Lebanon's permanent delineation of its southern maritime boundary on 27 October 2022.

522. The Heads of State and Government, emphasizing the principles of International Humanitarian Law, *condemned* the targeting of civilians wherever it may occur.

523. The Heads of State and Government were strongly *convinced* that there should be no impunity for the Israeli violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights, and that Israel should be held accountable for its apparent commission of large scale crimes committed against Lebanon and its population. They also *emphasized* the necessity to have Israel provide the United Nations with the full, correct information and maps related to the sites of unexploded munitions, including cluster bombs fired indiscriminately on populated civilian areas during its aggression against Lebanon in the summer of 2006.

524. The Heads of State and Government, pursuant to the failure of other means, *emphasized* the necessity of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict based on relevant UN Resolutions leading to the establishment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East as called for by the Arab Peace Initiative of Beirut in 2002.

525. The Heads of State and Government *supported* the government of Lebanon position, abiding by its constitution, to reject any form of permanent settlement or local integration and to reaffirm its attachment to the right of return of the Palestine refugees to their homeland, and valued the clear and firm position of the people of Palestine and their leadership rejecting the settlement of those refugees in the Arab host countries, in view of their particular situation, especially in Lebanon, in conformity with article 4 of the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant United Nations resolutions. They commended the work of UNRWA and called on the donor countries to increase their assistance and to honor their previous commitments to the said Agency.

526. The Heads of State and Government *commended* the unique pluralistic Lebanese model based on the parity between Muslims and Christians and called for its preservation, and in this regard reaffirmed their support for the initiative of the President of the Republic to make Lebanon

a permanent center for dialogue between cultures, religions and ethnicities, through the Academy for Human Encounters and Dialogue and applauded the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 73/344 on 16 September 2019, endorsed by the Movement, which welcomed the initiative of the President to establish the said Academy.

527. The Heads of State and Government supported the efforts of the Lebanese Government to save Lebanon from all threats to its security and stability, and *expressed* their understanding of the policy of dissociation the Government pursues vis-à-vis the developments in the Arab region.

Africa

528. The Heads of State and Government congratulated Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for winning the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. The award is a recognition not only of the Prime Minister's efforts for peace in the Horn of Africa but also of Africa's determination to find solutions for its own problems. In this connection, the Heads of State and Government express their appreciation and support for the constructive role the Ethiopian Prime Minister is playing.

529. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the adoptions of the Agenda 2063 by the 24th ordinary session of the Ministers of the Assembly of the African Union held from 30 to 31 January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and expressed their support for effective implementation of this initiative in order to promote peace, stability and socio-economic development in Africa.

530. The Heads of State and Government also *expressed* support to the African Union initiative "Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030" and to the African Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap (2016-2020), hoping that African NAM Member States will deploy continued and strengthened efforts towards the goal of a conflict-free Africa. In this regard, NAM Heads of State and Government commended the efforts deployed by the African Members of the UN Security Council (A3) for spearheading initiatives for the holding of an open debate dedicated to the African initiative and for the unanimous adoption of UNSC resolution 2457 (2019).

531. The Heads of State and Government recommended that the UN Security Council should support regional and sub-regional initiatives that are geared to the preservation, restoration and promotion of regional peace, security, and stability, in accordance with the UN Charter.

532. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the successful third Arab-African Summit held in Kuwait on 19 November 2013 under the title "Partners in Development and Investment. They welcomed as well all initiatives to strengthen the historic relations, solidarity and cooperation between the two regions.

533. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development, TICAD 8, held in Tunis, on 27th and 28th August 2022, as a platform to mobilize support for Africa's development.

534. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the new era of peace and cooperation in the Horn of Africa region, and commended the leaders for their courageous work to close a chapter of hostility and open the doors for peace and cooperation, which will contribute towards human security and sustainable development in the Horn of Africa and the continent as a whole. They expressed their solidarity with the leaders of the region.

534.1 The Heads of State and Government commended the historic signing of the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship on 9 July 2018 by the President of the State of Eritrea, H.E. Mr. Isaias Afwerki, and the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, and welcomed the commitment by both parties

to resume diplomatic ties and open a new chapter of cooperation and partnership, which will result in benefits for both peoples and for the region;

534.2 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the 5 September 2018 Tripartite Agreement the State of Eritrea, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Federal Republic of Somalia to foster a comprehensive cooperation on political, economic, social, cultural and security issues, their coordination in the promotion of regional peace and security as well as the establishment of a Joint High-Level Committee to coordinate their efforts in the framework of the Declaration. The Heads of State and Government also welcomed the 4 March 2019 Joint Statement by the Presidents of the State of Eritrea, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of South Sudan on their commitment to work together for the consolidation of peace in the Republic of South Sudan and the advancement of the cause of regional integration.

Chagos Archipelago

535. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the clear and unambiguous Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered on 25 February 2019 on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965, pursuant to the UN General Assembly resolution 71/292 of 22nd June 2017.

536. The Heads of State and Government took note of the Court's findings that the right to self-determination was a rule of customary international law in 1965 and that the excision of the Chagos Archipelago from the territory of Mauritius was an internationally wrongful act. In that regard, the Heads of State and Government fully *supported* the Court's ruling that the United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible.

537. The Heads of State and Government also *took note* of UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 of 22 May 2019 and the Judgment of the Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) of 28 January 2021, which fully endorsed the findings of the ICJ.

538. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed, in the light of the ICJ's Advisory Opinion, UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 and the Judgment of the Special Chamber of ITLOS that the Chagos Archipelago is and has always been part of the territory of Mauritius and that Mauritius is the sole State lawfully entitled to exercise sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and sovereign rights over the appurtenant maritime spaces. They resolved to cooperate fully with the UN General Assembly in ensuring the prompt decolonization of Mauritius, as required by the Court, and take all necessary measures for the process of decolonization of Mauritius to be completed without hindrance and as rapidly as possible.

539. The Heads of State and Government expressed their satisfaction that the findings of the ICJ and the Special Chamber of ITLOS as well as UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 confirm that the "marine protected area" ("MPA") purportedly created by the UK around the Chagos Archipelago is illegal since under international law, the UK is not the 'coastal State' in relation to the Chagos Archipelago. They welcomed the announcement made by Mauritius at the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon in 2022 that it will create an MPA around the Chagos Archipelago with the support of relevant stakeholders.

540. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the decision of Mauritius and the United Kingdom to start negotiations on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and look forward to an agreement being concluded by the two countries on the basis of international law and which resolves all outstanding issues, including the resettlement of the former inhabitants of the Chagos Archipelago.

541. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the Judgment which the Special Chamber of ITLOS delivered on 28 April 2023, establishing a maritime boundary between the Republic of

Mauritius and the Republic of Maldives, which delimits the exclusive economic zones and the continental shelves of the two States within 200 nautical miles in the region of the Chagos Archipelago).

Libya

542. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Libya and called on all states to refrain from interfering into the internal affairs of Libya, including by supplying arms in violation of Security Council resolutions, using mass media to incite to violence and attempts to undermine the political process.

543. The Heads of State and Government encouraged all relevant Libyan authorities and institutions to work together on the preparations for the electoral process and call on the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High State Council (HSC) to expeditiously produce the necessary fair and equitable electoral laws needed to conduct the national elections as soon as possible.

544. The Heads of State and Government commended *and recognized* the important role of Libyans and their sacrifices in fighting terrorism in their territory, and called on Libyan authorities to meet their commitments in accordance with the Libyan Political Agreement, in order to achieve security and stability in Libya and to the Libyan people.

545. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the efforts to stabilize the situation and commended the role of regional organizations and neighboring countries in support of the Libyan-led peace process and dialogue between Libyans facilitated by the United Nations, in order to reunite the security state institutions and improve the conditions for the benefit of the Libyan people. They reaffirmed that there is no military solution to the Libyan crisis and emphasized the importance of the State's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in order to further stabilize the ceasefire and unify all security and military institutions under one executive authority in Libya. The Heads of State and Government confirmed the support to UNSMIL to find political settlement based on the Libyan political agreement signed in Skhirat 2015, and relevant UNSC resolutions that confirmed the Libyan ownership of the political process. In this regard, they underlined the importance of holding elections and commended the invitation extended by Libya to the UN to provide technical assistance to facilitate the simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections in a fair manner and accepted results by all parties.

546. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the establishment of a voter registration campaign by the Electoral Commission of Libya and *expressed their satisfaction* with the widespread popular demand for registration.

Somalia

547. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations.

548. The Heads of State and Government welcomed and *expressed* confidence on the positive political and security developments, and progress made towards the completion of the provisional constitution, including the election of the President and the appointment of the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Somalia in 2022.

549. In recognition of the fact that the development of Somalia can best be undertaken by the people of Somalia, it is important that, with the support of the United Nations, the international community, the sub-region and neighboring countries, refugees be assisted to return to their country and that assistance similarly be provided to internally displaced persons and others in need of humanitarian assistance in order to effectively contribute to peace and development in Somalia and to resume their livelihoods. Likewise, neighboring countries that continue to

shoulder the responsibility of hosting refugees should continue to be assisted to ease the burden of the humanitarian crisis.

550. The Heads of State and Government condemned most vehemently the barbaric acts and human rights abuse by Al-Shabaab on the civilian population, including explosions, indiscriminate shelling, extra-judicial executions, torture, and extortions, as well as preventing humanitarian aid to reach areas under their control, and hold the leaders of the terrorist group responsible for all the criminal acts committed by their militia.

551. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the Security Sector Development plan presented by the Federal Government of Somalia and endorsed by Somalia's International partners in New York, December, 2023, which includes the establishment of capable, affordable, transparent and accountable Somali Security Forces and institutions that, in turn, facilitate peacebuilding efforts.

552. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of the development of the Somali security forces and institutions to ensure Somalia's long-term security and stability and called upon the international community in coordination with the UN and ATMIS to provide increased support to the Somali Government security and justice sectors.

553. The Heads of State and Government commended the contribution of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to lasting peace and stability in Somalia, and *expressed* their appreciation for the continued commitment of troops by Troop and Police Contributing Countries to ATMIS, and *called upon* the members and the international community to provide resources for it to better fulfill its mandate.

554. The Heads of State and Government paid *tribute* to the AU Partners and UN Member States for continued financial and logistical support to AMISOM and its successor ATMIS.

555. The Heads of State and Government commended the Federal Government of Somalia for gradually assuming security responsibilities and recognized the recent UN Security Council Resolution and Somalia's achievement in the lifting of the decades long Arms Embargo, enabling the space for required equipping of Somali armed forces as ATMIS forces draw down and depart Somalia by December 31, 2024.

556. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2184 (2014) and *stressed* that this resolution should be implemented in a manner fully consistent with International Law, including the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea and calls for the FGS to protect the security and economic interests of its people including maritime security and blue economy.

557. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged that Somali Security Forces (SSF) will face simultaneous multiple demands and requires a new multilateral mission to provide protection of strategic population centres.

558. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the progress on the economic front, the achievement on HIPIC completion point, increase in domestic revenue, and congratulated Somalia upon admission to the East African Community (EAC).

559. The Conference commended highly the State of Kuwait in hosting a donors' conference to support the education sector of the Federal Republic of Somalia. It affirmed the importance of supporting and upgrading this sector aimed at guaranteeing security and promoting development and re-construction in the Federal Republic of Somalia.

560. The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* the attack on African Union Mission peace-keeping troops in Somalia on 26 May 2023 by Al-Shabab terrorists that resulted in the death of troops of Ugandan contingent in ATMIS. The Heads of State and Government

extended their condolences to the Government and people of Uganda. The Heads of State and Government recalled the Communique of the Summit of troop contributing countries to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), that specifically called for the review of UN Security Council resolution 2372 (2017) that called for phased reduction and draw down of AMISOM troops by 2020. The Heads of State and Government supported and endorsed the correctness of the communique of the summit of troop contributing countries to AMISOM. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government encouraged the NAM members of UNSC to propose a review of UNSC resolution 2372 (2017), with a view to upscaling financial support to AMISOM. The Heads of State and Government expressed a strong view that the recent attacks vindicate the correctness of the TCC summit that called for the review of UNSC 2372 (2017). The Heads of State and Government called *for* adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of ATMIS through UN assessed contribution to facilitate ATMIS effectively implement its mandate.

561. The Heads of State and Government welcomed and endorsed the communique of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and the Federal Republic of Somalia that was held on 27th April 2023 in Entebbe under the Chairmanship of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, that deliberated on the procedures of the drawdown through Communique 1068, adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 8th March 2022 following the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2628 and 2670 of 2022, as well as the Communique PSC/PR/COMM.1143 (2023) of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 7th March 2023. They also welcomed the regional efforts including the Heads of State Front Line Summit convened between Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya, and Ethiopia in Mogadishu on 1 February 2023 and supported the call for partnership and enhanced solidarity among Somalia's neighboring countries in defeating Al-Shabab.

562. The Heads of State and Government further noted the recent adoption on 21 December 2022 of UN Security Council resolution 2670 (2022) and underscored that any future ATMIS troop reductions should be determined by joint AU/UN/FGS threat assessments of the conditions on the ground, in coordination with relevant partners, and also taking into account conditions set out in the Transition Plan, including the ability of Somalia to generate able, accountable, acceptable and affordable forces.

563. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need for the provision of adequate, predictable and sustainable funding of ATMIS through UN assessed contribution to facilitate ATMIS effectively implement its mandate, and in this regard called on the UN Security Council to take the required decisions, as soon as possible.

564. The Heads of State and Government further stressed the urgent need to improve coordination of international support in building capacity for the Somali Security Forces (SSF) and other national institutions in Somalia; and in this regard welcomed the commitments and offers from Partners to support ATMIS and the FGS in their stabilization efforts.

The Sudan

565. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of the Sudan.

566. The Heads of State and Government *took into* account the current situation in Sudan, welcomed the signing of a Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan and the agreement on short-term ceasefire and humanitarian arrangement by the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces on 11 May 2023, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed that this matter is an internal matter that should be left to the Sudanese to achieve the required settlement between them, away from international interference and called for a peaceful solution and inclusive dialogue to resolve differences between the two parties.

567. The Heads of State and Government appreciated Sudan's tireless efforts in bringing together South Sudanese different political powers which culminated in the signature of the Revitalization Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. They also welcomed the mediation efforts by the Sudan to bring peace and stability in Central African Republic within the framework of the African Union initiative for peace and reconciliation in CAR. These efforts come in conformity with the commitments of the Sudan in playing its instrumental role of contributing to the maintenance of, peace and security in the region.

568. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the political transformation that took place in the Sudan on 11 April 2019 that reflected the will and determination of the Sudanese people for a better future, and demonstrated their aspiration to freedom, peace and justice. They call upon the international community to exert utmost efforts to support the Sudan in its endeavor to reform the economy; this objective could be achieved, by lifting the Sudan from the States Sponsoring Terrorism List issued by the USA and by the debt relief within the framework of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, the provision of the ODA and technical assistance.

569. The Heads of State and Government noted with satisfaction the sustained efforts being made by the Government of the Sudan, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the United Nations and the State of Qatar to reactivate the political process leading to a lasting peace in Darfur, and *expressed* their support for the Doha peace process on Darfur. They *encouraged* the political process as a priority and *emphasized* the need to focus on developmental assistance in Darfur as peace and development are mutually reinforced. They *expressed* the Movement's resolve, therefore, to support the Sudan as well as the AU and IGAD in their efforts to sustain and reinforce peace in that country, and *called on* the international community to do likewise.

570. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the dedication of the Transitional Government of the Republic of the Sudan to bring about peace and stability in the Country. They support the process of peace negotiations taking place in Juba, South Sudan between the Government of the Sudan and Armed Groups from Darfur, Blue Nile and the South Kordofan. They hailed the efforts of South Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt and Uganda and call upon the International Community to support the regional candid endeavour to realize peace and stability in the Sudan.

571. The Heads of State and Government *commended* the initiatives and steps taken by the Governments of Sudan and South Sudan to resolve their differences through peaceful means; called for all pending issues between the two countries to continue to be resolved in line with agreements signed under the auspices of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel, for priority to be given to resolving security issues and to agreement on border delineation in accordance with the January 1956 border.

572. The Heads of State and Government affirmed their support for the efforts to achieve peace, stability and development. In this regard, they *called upon* all States that have debts owed by the Sudan to relieve the debts of Sudan in order to enable the country to meet the challenges and requirements of development, construction and stability.

573. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the role played by the Government of Sudan in hosting millions of refugees from neighboring and other countries and urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility and render support to the Government of Sudan through assistance to refugees and hosting communities who share their meagre resources with them.

574. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the high-level pledging event organized by the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federal Republic of Germany, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union in Geneva on 19 June 2023, while calling for the fulfillment of the announced pledges totaling around \$1.5 billion.

575. The Heads of State and Government expressed appreciation to Sudan's neighboring countries, notably Chad, Egypt and South Sudan, for hosting large numbers of people displaced from Sudan, while acknowledging the burden shouldered by the host countries in this regard, and urging the international community, in line with the principle of burden-sharing, to step up its support to enable the neighboring host countries to address the impacts of the growing influxes.

Central African Republic

576. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the signing of agreement on Peace and Reconciliation by the Central African government and 14 armed groups in Bangui on 6 February 2019, following the peace talks that took place in Khartoum, Sudan, within the framework of the African Union Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in CAR and under the auspices of the African Union and welcomed the formation of an inclusive government in line with article 21 of the Agreement as well as the engagement of the African Union , the Economic Community of African States and the United Nations.

577. The Heads of State and Government also *expressed* their deep concern following the continued violation of the Agreement by some armed groups, which resulted into the losses of lives and massive displacements of the civilian population. They called upon member states of the Non-Aligned Movement and the international community as a whole, to strongly support the implementation of the Agreement and to urgently provide for a coordinated and appropriate response to the humanitarian and development needs of the population.

578. The Heads of State and Government commended the efforts of the government of the CAR to promote peace and stability in CAR, which have led to the holding of an inclusive republican dialogue and the implementation of the APPR.

579. The Heads of State and Government took note of the revitalization of the APPR through the signing of the Luanda Roadmap adopted on September 16, 2021 by the ICGLR, under the auspices of Angola and Rwanda. To this end, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the 3rd strategic review meeting on the joint implementation of the Luanda Roadmap and the APPR, held in Bangui on October 23, 2023.

580. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the Government's efforts to coordinate the implementation of the APPR and the roadmap, salute the national ownership of the peace process through the Government's efforts to decentralize it to the local level, and welcomed the disbanding, disarmament and demobilization of 9 of the 14 armed groups that signed the APPR.

581. The Heads of State and Government took note of the adoption and entry into force on March 30, 2023 of a new constitution in the CAR, and at the same time reaffirm their attachment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the CAR. They recalled the importance of the principle of non-interference.

582. The Heads of State and Government took note of the forthcoming organization of the first local and regional elections scheduled for 2024 and January 2025 in CAR after more than 30 years. They called for inclusive, transparent and free, in accordance with the CAR constitution. They further called for support from regional and international partners in this regard.

583. The Heads of State and Government also welcomed the ongoing commitment of the CAR Government to work closely with regional and sub-regional partners in the search for a peaceful, negotiated solution to the crisis in the country. They urged the guarantors and facilitators involved in resolving this crisis to remain seized of the situation.

584. The Heads of State and Government called on Members of the Movement and the entire international community to provide continued support to the national and legitimate authorities of Central African Republic and *welcomed* the renewal of mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Central African Republic (MINUSCA) until

30 November 2024 in order to lead to the sustainable peace in the entire country and the protection of civilians.

585. The Heads of State and Government also welcomed the partial lifting of the arms embargo measures on CAR following the significant efforts made by the CAR authorities, in coordination with their international partners, to advance the reform of the security sector, including the ongoing deployment of CAR defense and security forces which is an asset to sustain the peace process. In this context, they underscored the importance for MINUSCA to contribute to this endeavor.

Cameroon

586. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the sovereignty, unity, stability and territorial integrity of Cameroon.

587. The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* the repeated abuses and attacks against civilians and Cameroon defense forces by the armed groups in the North West and South West regions and requested the members of the Movement and the international community to support the government of Cameroon in its effort to target and impose sanctions on separatist leaders who bear responsibility for such abuses.

588. The Heads of State and Government welcomed Cameroon's tireless efforts in promoting dialogue and the return to peace in its North West and South west regions and called on members of the Movement and the international community to actively support the Government's endeavors in that regard.

589. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the holding of the Major National Dialogue, from 30th September to 4th October 2019, demonstrating the ability and leadership of the His Excellency Paul BIYA to find lasting solutions to the situation prevailing in Cameroon, as well as the determination of its sons and daughters to take their country, and in particular the Northwestern and Southwestern regions, out of the spiral of violence and the crisis having affected them for the last three years, facilitating their reconstruction and their return to normalcy.

590. The Heads of State and Government highly *commended* the abundant, concrete and salutary measures taken by the Government of Cameroon for the enhancement of peace and security, among which are the confidence building measures taken so far, in view of appeasing the sociopolitical climate and the various actions taken for the management of the North West and South West sociopolitical situation.

591. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation for the support by bilateral and multilateral partners of Cameroon and urged them to provide broad assistance to help implement the Government's numerous initiatives, including reconstruction and the Humanitarian Assistance plan in the North West and South West regions.

The Great Lakes Region

592. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the decisions of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Summit held in Luanda, Angola, on 3 June 2023, and of the Quadripartite Summit on the coordination and harmonization of peace initiatives in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), comprising the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), ICGLR, and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as well as the concerned countries, namely the DRC and Rwanda, with the participation of the United Nations, held in Luanda, Angola, on 27 June 2023. In this regard, they expressed their appreciation to H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President Republic of Angola, African Union Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa and

Chairperson of the ICGLR for his diplomatic efforts for peace and stability in the Great Lakes Region.

593. The Heads of State and Government were *informed* that the meeting of the regional inter-ministerial committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) which was held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo on 15 October 2019 reviewed the political and peace situation in the region of Great Lakes. They noted with satisfaction the positive political and security developments in the Great Lakes Region. In this context, they congratulated the Democratic Republic of Congo for the successful transparent and self-financed elections that led to a peaceful transition and welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed by Uganda and Rwanda for the peaceful resolution of the situation between the two countries.

594. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the establishment of the ICGLR Regional Training Facility on 18th February, 2014 in Kampala to fight against Sexual Gender Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region.

595. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the efforts of the region to address the current crisis and underlined the need to eradicate armed groups, including, among others, Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) that committed genocide against the Tutsi in 1994, the Allied Democratic Forces and other organized negative forces that continue to destabilize the region and *reiterated* the need and urgency of the effective neutralization of all the negative forces, in accordance with the AU decisions, ICGLR and SADC as a top priority in bringing stability and security to the DRC and the Great Lakes Region.

596. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the role played by the Republic of Uganda in particular H.E Yoweri Museveni, former ICGLR Chair in his capacity as Mediator, for his peace efforts and the outcome of the Kampala Dialogue between the Democratic Republic of Congo and M23 to ensure Peace, Stability and Development in eastern DRC. The Heads of State and Government further called for the acceleration of the implementation process of the Nairobi Declarations, including aspects related to the amnesty and the voluntary repatriation of M23 ex-combatants.

597. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their call for free, transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections in Burundi, and commended the Government of Burundi for the measures taken in preparation and the organization of the 2018 referendum and the 2020 general elections successfully held relying on national resources. They congratulated the Government of Burundi for the steps already taken in the preparations for these elections and welcomed the decision of the Burundian Government to finance the entire operational budget of the elections by national resources.

598. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need for continuing the efforts in order to reach an agreement between all Congolese parties within the political process, and to implement the previous agreements in this regard, in order to fulfill the aspirations of the DRC people. They *reaffirmed* the necessity of the international community support against the negative forces in the DRC, and the importance of assisting the neighboring countries that host Congolese refugees.

599. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the decision taken by SADC on 8 May 2023 to deploy a force within the framework of the SADC Standby Force as a regional response to supporting the ongoing efforts to restore peace and security in the Eastern DRC.

600. The Heads of State and Government welcomed and endorsed the communiqué of the 20th Extra-ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State which took place in Bujumbura, Burundi on 4 February 2023 to address the current security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

601. The Heads of State and Government condemned the terrorist attacks facing the countries of the Great Lakes region, as well as the human rights violations committed by the terrorist groups. They *stressed* the importance of assisting those countries of the region suffering from terrorism in order to avoid any safe havens for terrorists.

602. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed and endorsed* the communiqué of the Eleventh High-Level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the signatory countries of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region of 6 May 2023 that was convened in Bujumbura, by H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, with the support of the Guarantor institutions, namely, the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In this regard, they welcomed the decision to hold the Twelfth High-Level Meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the signatory countries of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region in 2024 in Kampala, Uganda, to further review the implementation of the PSC framework.

603. The Heads of State and Government condemned the continued activities of negative forces in the region, particularly, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the ex M23, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and armed Burundian elements which, in addition to generating insecurity and displacement of the population and illegally exploiting and trading natural resources, fuel mistrust among the countries of the Great Lakes region.

604. The Heads of State and Government encouraged the DRC, with the support of MONUSCO and its FIB, and in collaboration with the countries of the region, to vigorously pursue efforts towards neutralizing the negative forces, including the FDLR and the ADF; and, in addition, requested the UN to mobilize support to operationalize and strengthen ICGLR mechanisms, including the Joint Follow-up Mechanism on the ADF based in Kasese.

605. The Heads of State and Government commended the efforts of the EAC, ECCAS, SADC and ICGLR for their recognition of the need for a harmonized and coordinated approach, under the leadership of the African Union, to address the various security threats facing the Great Lakes Region and encouraged them to strengthen their cooperation and enhance their collective security efforts in pursuit of peace and stability in the Eastern DRC.

606. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the ongoing efforts to implement the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan and called on the signatory parties to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Agreement and its dissemination at grassroots level; and further acknowledged the positive steps taken by the Government of South Sudan and the parties.

607. The Heads of State and Government *noted* the conclusions of the seminar jointly convened by the UN and the AU on 26-27 February 2018 in Addis Ababa to mark the fifth anniversary of the PSC Framework, notably the relevance of the PSC Framework as a complementary instrument to the ICGLR Pact in support of peace and stability in the region; the importance of peace in the DRC for overall stability in the Great Lakes; the need to involve women, youth and civil society, including the private sector, in peace and political processes, and; the need to address issues that contribute to mistrust among the DRC, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi. The highlighted the need for greater demonstration of political will and building of trust among the core countries of the region as critical elements to fulfil the ambition of the PSC Framework and the ICGLR Pact in that regard.

Zimbabwe

608. The Heads of State and Government noted the ongoing efforts of the Government of H. E. President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa to transform Zimbabwe into an upper middle-income

country by 2030, with increased investment, decent jobs and broad-based empowerment, free from poverty and corruption. They also, noted that efforts of the Government were being hampered by the sanctions imposed by some Western countries since the early 2000s. The Heads of State and Government expressed their solidarity with the people and Government of Zimbabwe and called for the immediate and unconditional lifting of all the unilateral coercive measures, in order to allow for the economic development of the country.

609. The Heads of State and Government noted the successful holding of harmonized elections in Zimbabwe on 23 and 24 August 2023, and extended their congratulations to the Government and People of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Mali

610. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their strong commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali.

611. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the commitment of the Malian authorities for a peaceful settlement of the crisis, including in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and encouraged the international community to support the efforts of the Malian government in the resolution of the crisis.

612. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation for the support by the international community to Malians authorities and urged it to provide broad support to resolve the crisis in Mali through coordinated actions, including inter-regional cooperation, for immediate and long-term needs, encompassing security, governance, development and humanitarian issues.

613. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their strong attachment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali and expressed their unconditional support for the restoration of the State authority throughout the Malian territory. They commended the efforts made by the Malian authorities to implement political, institutional, and electoral reforms to ensure a quick return to constitutional order. In this regard, they welcomed the adoption of the new constitution by referendum and the establishment of bodies dedicated to the organization of election. including the presidential elections scheduled for March 2024.

614. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the signing on 15 May 2015 and 20 June 2015 in Bamako of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali resulting from the Algiers process remains a good basis for comprehensive and sustainable solutions to the conflict in north Mali.

615. The Heads of State and Government commended the efforts of the Government of Mali for the enhancement of peace and security as well as for the measures taken to ensure the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement and urges all stakeholders to ensure full implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, by ensuring the effective functioning of the monitoring mechanisms envisaged for the application of the said Agreement.

616. Considering that this Agreement emanating from the Algiers Process is a balanced compromise, taking into account the legitimate concerns of all parties, with due respect for the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Mali, as well as for the secular nature, the single State and the republican form of the State, the Heads of State and Government *underlined* that the signing and the scrupulous implementation of the Agreement by all the Malian parties, with the support of the countries of the region and of the international partners, will contribute to the promotion of lasting peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Mali, acceleration of socio-economic development in the northern regions of Mali, as well as in enhancing the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime both in northern Mali and in the Sahel region in general.

617. The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* the repeated terrorist attacks against civilians, the Malian defense and security forces, representatives of the Malian authorities, peacekeepers of UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and humanitarian workers present on the ground, and recalled that the delay in implementing the peace Agreement endangers the peace and security and favored terrorists and organized criminals in Mali and the Sahel region. The Heads of State and Government also encouraged the regional cooperation and initiatives, to combat terrorism.

618. The Heads of State and Government expressed recognition of the NAM for UN peacekeepers and military forces of Mali that had sacrificed their lives in Mali in the line of duty and extended their condolences to their families, and commended the contribution of UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, whose primary strategic priority was to support the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali resulting from the Algiers process by the Malian parties to lasting peace and stability in Mali.

619. The Heads of State and Government took note of the adoption of Resolution S/RES/2690 (2023) by the Security Council on June 30 2023 relating to the end of the mandate of the MINUSMA and its withdrawal from Mali as requested by the Transition Government and called on Malian authorities to fully cooperate with the United Nations, the regional and international stakeholders to ensure the orderly and safe withdrawal of the mission from Mali.

620. The Heads of State and Government urged the technical and financial partners to honor the commitments they made at the international conference for Mali's recovery and development held in Paris in October 2015.

621. The Heads of State and Government called *on* the Security Council, in compliance with its resolution 2374 (2017), to consider appropriate measures, including targeted sanctions, against those who conducted actions through proxies, that jeopardize prospects for peace, resume hostilities, violate the ceasefire and oppose to the implementation of the Agreement.

622. The Heads of State and Government reiterated deep appreciation of the NAM to the Enlarged Mediation Team led by Algeria and composed of the UN, the AU, the OIC, the EU, ECOWAS as well as Burkina Faso, Chad, France, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and the United States for its contribution, as well as other concerned international actors for their support to the Algiers Process for lasting peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Mali.

623. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the efforts by the Government of Mali for the implementation of the peace agreement and called on the movements to resume a meaningful dialogue, particularly within the monitoring mechanisms put in place, including the Agreement Monitoring Committee (C.S.A.); and encouraged the Malian parties to consider the proposals of the international mediation under the leadership of Algeria in order to achieve diligent and effective implementation of the political, security, reconciliation and development provisions of the Agreement, while reiterating the centrality of the Algiers Agreement for a lasting peace in Mali including by creating appropriate conditions for the return to constitutional order, in particular through organizing the elections.

Western Sahara

624. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the previous positions of the Non-Aligned Movement on the question of Western Sahara.

625. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council on Western Sahara. They also *reaffirmed* UN General Assembly resolution, 78/85 adopted without a vote, and reiterated that, in accordance with the said resolution, they continued to support strongly the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to achieve a mutually acceptable political solution which will provide self-

determination for the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and other relevant resolutions. The Heads of State and Government recognized that all available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly Resolutions.

626. Bearing in mind the above, the Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the four rounds of negotiation and the subsequent rounds of informal talks held under the auspices of the Secretary General, as well as the commitment of the parties to continue to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue, in order to enter into a more intensive phase of negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of Security Council resolutions 1754, 1783, 1813, 1871, 1920 1979, 2044, 2099, 2152, 2218, 2285 2351, 2414, 2440 2468, 2494, 2548, 2602, 2654 and 2703 and the success of negotiations. They *took note* of efforts and developments since 2006.

627. They *called upon* the parties and the States in the region to cooperate fully with the Secretary General and his Personal Envoy, and with each other, and *reaffirmed* the responsibility of the United Nations towards the people of Western Sahara. They *further welcomed* the commitment of the parties to continue the process of negotiations through United Nations-sponsored talks.

Comorian Island of Mayotte

628. The Heads of State and Government reiterated once again the unquestionable sovereignty of the Union of Comoros over the island of Mayotte. In this regard, they *condemned* and considered null and void the referendum of 29 March 2009, as well as the overall process focusing on transforming the Comorian Island of Mayotte as the 101st French overseas department, and *declared* that it has no effects on the Union of Comoros and Members States of the Non-Aligned Movement.

629. The Heads of State and Government urged the Government of France to abolish the so called “Balladur Visa” which is illegal, and seriously constrains access by the people of Comoros to the island of Mayotte, and is a cause of many losses of lives and missing persons.

Djibouti/Eritrea

630. The Heads of State and Government, recalling the principles of good neighborliness, non-interference and regional cooperation, *expressed* their concerns on the situation between the two neighboring countries and *called on* both members to solve their differences through bilateral and collective diplomatic and peaceful means and to engage actively in dealing with Security Council resolution 1862 (2009).

631. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the agreement concerning peaceful settlement of the border dispute between the State of Eritrea and the Republic of Djibouti, in which they entrust the State of Qatar to undertake mediation efforts to reach a resolution to the border dispute between their countries through peaceful means.

Gulf of Guinea

632. The Heads of State and Government expressed deep concern about acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea and *welcomed* UN Security Council resolution 2634 (2022). They *welcomed* the conclusions of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) on maritime piracy, armed robbery and other unlawful acts committed at the Sea in the Gulf of Guinea, held on 24 and 25

June 2013 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, namely, the Political Declaration of Heads of State and Government, the Code of Conduct and the Memorandum of Understanding.

633. The Heads of State and Government requested the support of members of the Non-Aligned movement, the Secretary General of the United Nations and other partners to accelerate the implementation of the decisions taken during the Summit, including the operationalization of the Interregional Coordination Center (ICC) in Cameroon.

634. The Heads of State and Government commended the implementation of the Yaoundé Summit conclusions with regard to the creation of an inter-regional Coordination Centre (ICC), its inauguration in Yaoundé, on 11 September 2014 and the effective commencement of its activities with the installation of its statutory officials on 22 February 2017.

635. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation to the efforts of the ECCAS, ECOWAS and Gulf of Guinea member countries in that regard, commended the Republic of Cameroon for hosting the ICC and providing human and financial assistance to that regional mechanism and appealed to partners at the international, bilateral and multilateral levels to support the Interregional Coordination Center in the fulfillment of its mandate.

Asia

Afghanistan

636. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and national unity of Afghanistan, and for achieving peace, stability and prosperity. They *recognized* that the challenges faced by Afghanistan and its people are enormous. Recognizing the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, they *noted* that sustainable progress on security, development, and governance was mutually reinforcing. They *further recognized* that the establishment of peace and security remains essential for the reconstruction, humanitarian relief efforts and sustainable development in that country.

637. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* deep concern regarding the dire economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, including alarming levels of food insecurity, and recognized the need to help to address the substantial challenges facing the economy of Afghanistan, including through efforts to restore the banking and financial systems and enabling access to assets belonging to the Central Bank of Afghanistan for the benefit of the Afghan people, as well as the need to strengthen efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and other activities that support basic human needs in Afghanistan, including unhindered humanitarian access.

638. The Heads of State and Government welcomed and underscored the importance of continued efforts to strengthen the process of regional economic cooperation to facilitate regional connectivity, trade and transit, including through various regional development initiatives, with a view to promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs in Afghanistan. They welcomed ongoing progress for the implementation of these initiatives, including the Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, the Central Asia-South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000), the Chabahar agreement between Afghanistan, India and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lapis Lazuli Transit, Trade and Transport Route Agreement, and the Turkmenistan-Aqina railway segment, as well as various bilateral and other transit trade agreements, including the transport of the first wheat consignment from India to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port and the establishment of the Afghanistan-India direct air freight.

639. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 73/88 of 06 December 2018, which pledges continued international support to the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild a stable, secure and economically self-sufficient State, free of terrorism and narcotics and strengthen the foundations of a constitutional

democracy as well as UN Security Council Resolution 2460 (2019) of 15 March 2019, which welcomed the continued role of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

640. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* the importance of continued international support for the stable, peaceful and democratic Afghanistan and to maintain security and stability throughout the country; and emphasized on the importance of countering terrorist and extremist groups, which threaten peace and stability in the country and expressed their serious concern about the security situation in Afghanistan and urgent need to overcome the challenges facing the country and its civilian population, in particular threats posed by all terrorist groups, to Afghanistan and the region, and cautioning against attempts to derail peace and stability in Afghanistan.

641. The Heads of State and Government expressed their concern regarding continued terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, including against security forces, civilians and diplomatic premises resulting in high number of deaths and strongly condemned the attacks.

642. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the declaration of the International Ulama Conference held in Makka-Al-Mukarrama-Jeddah on 10-11 July 2019, and the Final Communiqué of the OIC Extraordinary CPR Meeting on Afghanistan, held on 11 September 2019, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as well as the Islamic ruling or Fatwa issued by the Afghan Ulemas Council held in Kabul on 4 July 2018, declaring the current war in Afghanistan completely illegitimate, uttering that explosions, suicide, violence and extremism are Haram forbidden under the Islamic Law and have no place in Islam.

643. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the crucial importance of advancing regional cooperation as an effective means to promote security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan and the region, *and recognized* in this regard the importance of the contribution of neighboring regional and international partners including, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan process, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including trilateral and quadrilateral processes.

644. The Heads of State and Government welcomed and *underscored* the importance of continued efforts to strengthen the process of regional economic cooperation to facilitate regional connectivity, trade and transit, including through various regional development initiatives, with a view to promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs in Afghanistan.

645. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* increased efforts by Afghanistan, its neighboring and regional partners and international organizations to foster trust and cooperation with each other, as well as recent cooperation initiatives developed by the countries concerned and regional organizations.

646. The Heads of State and Government commended the outcome of the Geneva Conference on Afghanistan, held on 27-28 November 2018, which reaffirmed the long-term partnership and commitment of the international community to Afghanistan, based on the Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework, with the aim of continuing to strengthen national ownership and leadership, taking into account the evolving nature of the presence of the international community.

647. The Heads of State and Government stressed the critical importance of continued commitments of the international community, including peace, stability and sustainable developments in Afghanistan and they welcomed processes by which Afghanistan and its regional and international partners are entering into long-term strategic partnerships and other agreements aimed at achieving a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

648. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their deep concern at the continued high level of violence in Afghanistan, condemning in the strongest terms all violent attacks and recognizing in that regard the continuously alarming threats to Afghanistan posed by the terrorist activities committed by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, Al-Qaida, Da'esh and its affiliates and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, as well as the challenges related to the efforts to address such threats.

649. The Heads of State and Government expressed support for an inclusive, Afghanistan-led, Afghanistan-owned and Afghanistan-controlled comprehensive process of peace and reconciliation.

650. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognized the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee-hosting countries and communities, as well as their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and called for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and hosting States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States.

651. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that peace and stability, social and economic development, respect for human rights and inclusive government in Afghanistan would also contribute to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of all Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to play their constructive role in Afghanistan and Recognized the important role played by neighbouring and regional States, including Pakistan, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in coordinating wider regional and global resettlement efforts for Afghan refugees as well as facilitating the relocation of people of various nationalities from Afghanistan.

652. The Heads of State and Government expressed deep appreciation to countries, in particular the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, for hosting a large number of Afghans; acknowledged the huge burden they have shouldered in this regard.

653. The Heads of State and Government expressed the Movement's resolve therefore to:

653.1 Support the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, including through eliminating the threats to its peace and security;

653.2 Stress that the achievement of regional consensus and mutual understanding is an important condition for establishing long-lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan;

653.3 Strongly condemn the terrorist and criminal acts committed by Al-Qaida, Da'esh and its affiliates and other extremist groups and illegal armed groups, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations, including abductions, indiscriminate targeting of civilians, attacks against humanitarian workers, and targeting of Afghan as well as the assassination of public figures. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their conviction that this once again underlined the need for strengthening international cooperation in the global fight against terrorism. The Heads of State and Government also *reaffirmed* their conviction that such incidents would not deter the Afghan nation and the international community in their struggle against forces of terrorism in reconstruction and development of Afghanistan; Reaffirmed the importance of combating terrorism in and from Afghanistan and ensuring that the territory of Afghanistan is not used as a platform or safe haven by any terrorist group or organization; call upon Afghanistan to take concrete steps against all terrorist organizations and urges the international community to remain cautious against the possibility of incitement and the role of spoilers, both inside and outside the country, to derail efforts aimed at peace and stability in Afghanistan.

653.4 Encourage the international community, especially neighbors to continue to support the national and international efforts for Afghan led and Afghan owned inclusive peace and reconciliation process, based on the principles of reduction of violence, cutting ties with all terrorist groups and preservation of Afghanistan's democratic achievements and respect to the constitution of Afghanistan, and leading towards sustainable peace, stability and development of Afghanistan and neighboring countries;

653.5 Contribute to the peace, security, reconstruction, humanitarian relief efforts and sustainable development in Afghanistan, mindful of the concrete measures already taken by Non-Aligned Countries thereof;

653.6 Call *on* the international community and relevant UN agencies to support Afghanistan's efforts to sustainably return and reintegrate its refugees, including by providing concrete and tangible support for creation of pull factors in the return areas in Afghanistan, and for meeting the needs of the communities hosting refugees in Iran and Pakistan. This should in particular also include the provision of enhanced assistance to the Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to facilitate their voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration into the society of origin so as to contribute to the stability of Afghanistan.

654. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* the international community to strengthen international, regional and trans-regional cooperation for demand reduction, and to counter the production and trafficking of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, as well as to increase its assistance to enhance the capacity of Afghanistan to carry out its efforts, aimed at the elimination of production and trafficking of narcotics, and to create alternative livelihoods for the farmers by strengthening the crop substitution programme in Afghanistan, while noting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime titled World Drug Report 2022.

655. The Heads of State and Government exchanged views on the current situation in Afghanistan, including the political, security and the humanitarian situation. While emphasizing the respect for sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs, they reiterated support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan. They also emphasized the importance of formation of a truly inclusive and representative political structure that respects the rights of all Afghans and ensures equal rights of women, girls, including access to education. They also discussed regional threats of terrorism, extremism, radicalization and drug trafficking and emphasized that the territory of Afghanistan should not be used for sheltering, training, planning or financing any terrorist acts and reaffirmed that no terrorist organizations should be provided sanctuary or allowed to use the territory of Afghanistan.

656. The Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of the potential role of Afghanistan in connecting Central and South Asia, as well as its economic development and integration into interregional economic processes for lasting peace and stability.

Iraq and Kuwait

657. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the continuously improving brotherly relations between Iraq and Kuwait and the progress being made towards the implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

658. The Heads of State and Government further welcomed the ongoing progress being made between Governments of both Iraq and Kuwait in all fields, in particular the continuous efforts and commitment to cooperate on matters related to missing Kuwaiti and third-country nationals and the return of all remaining Kuwaiti property, including the national archives. The Heads of State and Government commended the Government of Iraq's commitment to and facilitation of this process and further commended the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the

Tripartite Mechanism and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) for their role in facilitating the implementation of the resolution 2107 (2013).

659. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the progress made by the Governments of Iraq and Kuwait towards the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and welcomed, with reference to United Nations Security Council resolution 2621 (2022), the successful conclusion of the work of the United Nations Compensation Commission which has fulfilled its mandate under resolutions 687 and 692 and other relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

660. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the State of Kuwait for providing the humanitarian assistance to the families of Iraq that have survived the terrorist actions of Da'esh during the liberation of the city of Mosul.

Iraq's mediation efforts

661. The Heads of State and Government commended the mediation efforts of the Republic of Iraq in the region and reiterated their support for the enhancement of regional cooperation.

Kuwait's humanitarian activities

662. The Heads of State and Government praised the efforts exerted by the State of Kuwait and the country's contributions in the humanitarian sphere, as reflected in the designation of the State of Kuwait as a global humanitarian centre and its late Emir H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the title of Humanitarian Leader by the former United Nations Secretary-General in September 2014.

663. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the support of the State of Kuwait towards new global policies aimed at integrating humanitarian relief efforts with developmental efforts through institutions like the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development that work in conjunction with the goals, targets and indicators of Agenda 2030.

664. The Heads of State and Government *praised* the State of Kuwait for its pivotal role in the drafting and, thereafter, during its second presidency of the Security Council in June 2019, the unanimous adoption of Security Council Resolution 2474 (2019) on the protection of civilians and persons reported missing in situations of armed conflict, and recognized the efforts of Kuwait in the issuance of a presidential statement on the importance of further enhancing cooperation between the Security Council and the League of Arab States.

665. The Heads of State and Government commended the contributions of the State of Kuwait to the global response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, including supporting the overall efforts of the World Health Organization, by, among other activities, generously contributing donations exceeding \$327 million, and also supporting international initiatives for equitable and secure distribution of vaccines, particularly to developing and least developed countries (LDCs).

Iran's humanitarian activities

666. The Heads of State and Government praised the efforts exerted by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the regional level in the humanitarian field particularly to deal with mass influx of refugees and migrants as well as natural disasters and disaster risk reduction.

667. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the efforts of Iran for hosting more than 3.5 million refugees and Afghan displaced nationals abroad despite being subjected to the illegal unilateral sanctions that negatively affected humanitarian activities and assistance.

668. The Heads of State and Government commended the important positive results of the Tehran declaration of the 8th meeting of the Strategy Solutions for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), held

on 12 December 2022 in Tehran, aiming to resolve the mass influx of Afghans to the neighboring countries and facilitate the voluntary and safe return of displaced Afghans to their homeland.

669. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its generous offer to host the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) and to bear its institutional, programmatic and operational costs. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the important role of the Centre in reducing the risks, losses and damages resulting from natural hazards by developing the capacities and capabilities of the countries and organizations of the Asia-Pacific region and strengthening regional cooperation on information-sharing and management of disaster risk reduction.

670. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the outcome of the 26th Meeting of the ECO Member States on 23rd January 2023 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan during which the Statute of the Regional Centre for Disaster Management (ECO-RCDM) was approved to serve as a regional platform for technical assistance, information exchange and facilitating policy dialogue for disaster risk management.

Yemen

671. The Heads of State and Government commended the commitment of the international community in supporting the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, stability, and development in Yemen.

672. The Heads of State and Government expressed their full support for the Good Offices role of the UN Secretary-General and the efforts of his Special Envoy for Yemen, Mr. Hans Grundberg, to put an end to the conflict and resume the political transition process and resolve any differences through dialogue and peaceful means.

673. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* that the solution to the situation in Yemen could only be achieved through a Yemeni-led, peaceful, inclusive, orderly and political transition process that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people for peaceful change and meaningful political, economic and social reforms, in accordance with the GCC initiative, the outcome of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC) and all the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2216.

674. The Heads of State and Government expressed their support for the Presidential Leadership Council headed by His Excellency President Dr. Rashad Mohammed Al-Alimi and *confirmed* their support for the ongoing regional and international efforts to renew and expand the truce in Yemen with the aim of achieving a comprehensive ceasefire and resume the political process based on the agreed references.

675. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for hosting the UN-led meeting on detainees' exchange between the Government of Yemen and the Houthis in Geneva and *welcomed* the recent implementation plan which provided for the release of hundreds of conflict-related detainees, and encouraged continued progress to ease the suffering of Yemenis. They also *expressed* their appreciation to the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland for hosting the high-level pledging event for Yemen's humanitarian response plan that took place in Geneva on 27 February 2023.

676. While recalling Security Council resolutions and expressing their grave concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen, especially the suffering of women and children, the Heads of State and Government urged all donor countries to maintain and expand their generous contributions to deliver humanitarian aid to those who need it most. They noted with deep regret that widespread conflict, severe economic decline, food insecurity and collapse of essential services continue to take an enormous toll on population and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, driving the country to the brink of famine and exacerbating needs in all sectors.

677. The Heads of State and Government commended Yemen's all efforts in fighting terrorism and violent extremism, especially the efforts against Al-Qaeda, which pose a genuine threat on the security and stability of the region and the world, and *called upon* the international community to support Yemen in these efforts.

Myanmar

678. The Heads of State and Government expressed their deep concern over the prolonged political crisis in Myanmar, and therefore urged significant progress in the timely and complete implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, to pave the way for an inclusive national dialogue in Myanmar. Bearing in mind the ASEAN Leaders' Review and Decision on the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, the Heads of State and Government recalled that the ASEAN Leaders have sought all parties concerned to adhere to and implement the Five-Point Consensus and for ASEAN to engage all stakeholders in a flexible and informal manner, primarily by the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar. With little progress achieved in the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, it is therefore incumbent on the Myanmar Armed Forces to comply with its commitments to the ASEAN Leaders. The Heads of State and Government welcomed close coordination between the Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar and the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar to ensure synergy towards a peaceful solution in Myanmar, and expressed their support for ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus. The Heads of State and Government also took note of the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2669 (2022), which demands an immediate end to all forms of violence throughout the country, acknowledges ASEAN's central role in helping to find a peaceful solution to the crisis in Myanmar and encourages the international community to support the ASEAN-led mechanism and process, including ASEAN's efforts in the implementation of the Five Point Consensus. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their concern over the humanitarian situation in Myanmar's Rakhine State, condemned all acts of violence, including attacks on Myanmar security forces, and those committed by any party that adversely affect unarmed civilians and resulted in loss of lives and the displacement of large numbers of people. They urgently called upon Myanmar or Myanmar Military where applicable, to create the conditions necessary for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of all refugees, including Rohingya Muslim refugees residing in host States and they also called for the early and full implementation of the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of Bangladesh signed in 2017. They further stressed the need to find a comprehensive and durable solution to address the root causes of the conflict and to create conducive environment by Myanmar so that the affected communities can rebuild their lives in Rakhine State. The Heads of State and Government encouraged Myanmar to implement the recommendations of the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The Heads of State and Government also noted the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed among Myanmar, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 28 May 2019 and stressed on the importance of the implementation. The Heads of State and Government welcomed ASEAN's efforts to support the Myanmar Government in providing humanitarian assistance and to facilitate the repatriation process through the work of the ASEAN Secretary-General and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre). They also noted the preliminary needs assessment (PNA) in Rakhine State conducted by the ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN ERAT) in March 2019, and welcomed the outcomes of the 4th High-Level Coordination Meeting, particularly the endorsement of the five additional projects to further advance the implementation of the recommendations of the PNA. They look forward to the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) when conditions allow, and to the successful repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons in Rakhine State.

South East Asia

679. The Heads of State and Government expressed satisfaction at the progress in the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in providing the legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN since its adoption in 2007. The Heads of State and Government welcomed ASEAN's commitment to the full and effective implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the Recommendations on Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness by the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post 2025 Vision, and the importance of maintaining ASEAN Centrality and unity in community-building efforts and engagement with external partners. The Heads of State and Government also look forward to the adoption of the ASEAN Community's Post 2025 Vision and its attendant documents in 2025. The Heads of State and Government *commended* the ongoing work of all ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and Organs for positive progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprints 2025, the efforts of the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Task Force and the IAI Work Plan III, respectively, and the ongoing efforts to effectively implement the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, which aims to achieve a seamlessly and comprehensively connected and integrated ASEAN that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of community. The realization of the five strategic areas of MPAC 2025, namely, sustainable infrastructure; digital innovation; seamless logistics; regulatory excellence and people mobility will contribute to the promotion of economic growth; narrowing development gaps; enhancing ASEAN integration and the community building process, enhancing the competitiveness of ASEAN; promoting deeper social and cultural understanding and mobility of people and connecting the ASEAN Member States within the region and the rest of the world. The Heads of State and Government were also pleased with the efforts and progress in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan IV (2021-2025), which aims to assist CLMV countries to meet ASEAN-wide targets and commitments to realize the goal of the ASEAN Community and thereby contribute to narrowing the development gap, through five strategic areas, namely food and agriculture, trade facilitation, MSMEs, education as well as health and well-being, have been addressed. The Heads of State and Government underscored the importance of the monitoring and evaluation of these projects by beneficiary countries noting that it has been almost two decades since the launch of the IAI, and recognized the need to continue to mobilize resources, along with those of ASEAN's partners, including international organizations and the private sector, to implement the Work Plan in a timely and effective manner. The Heads of State and Government welcomed ASEAN's ongoing efforts to enhance complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the work of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDSD), which will promote sustainable development cooperation in the region and contribute to global efforts to the attainment of the SDGs. The Heads of State and Government welcomed ASEAN's commitment to regionalism and multilateralism as important principles and frameworks of cooperation and that their strength and value lie in their inclusivity, rules-based nature and emphasis on mutual benefit and respect.

680. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* significant developments in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, including the 10th Anniversary of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration (AHRD) in November 2022 and progress in the implementation of ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Women (RPA- on EVAW) and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Elimination of Violence against Children (RPA- on EVAC) adopted in November 2015 that reflect the zero tolerance of ASEAN on all forms of violence against women and children, as well as the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers adopted in November 2017. The Heads of State and Government further welcomed the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which complements the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities across the three ASEAN Community pillars. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the entry into force of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) in March 2017. The Heads of State and Government congratulated the ASEAN

Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on the 10th anniversary of the AHRD and the Phnom Penh Statement on the Adoption of the AHRD in 2022, which are key human rights documents in the region that set the framework for further promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in ASEAN. The Heads of State and Government commended the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) on its achievement in the progressive implementation of the Five-Year Work Plan 2021-2025 and Priority Programmes/Activities of AICHR on human rights. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the continued work of AICHR in collaboration with the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the peoples of ASEAN.

681. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the validity and relevance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) which continues to serve as the key code of conduct governing inter-State relations in Southeast Asia and a foundation for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. They remained committed to further promoting the principles embodied in the TAC and emphasized the importance of all High Contracting Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty. They noted the most recent accessions to the TAC and also appreciated ASEAN's agreement to consider new applications for accession to the TAC in accordance with the Revised Guidelines for Accession to the TAC. The Heads of State and Government commended ASEAN's commitment in preserving Southeast Asia as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction, as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty), noted the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Decision 76/517 on 6 December 2021 on the Bangkok Treaty and welcomed the resolve of ASEAN to submit the biennial SEANWFZ Resolution through the First Committee to the UN General Assembly. The Heads of State and Government noted the progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen the implementation of the Treaty on SEANWFZ (2018-2022) and welcomed the renewal of the Plan of Action for 2023-2027. The Heads of State and Government also welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) as an Annex 1 Sectoral Body under the APSC Pillar of the ASEAN Charter and the preparations made by the ASEANTOM to strengthen cooperation on nuclear safety, security and safeguards within ASEAN, including through the implementation of the Five-Year ASEANTOM Work Plan (2018-2022), as well as its continuing engagement with the IAEA.

682. The Heads of State and Government reiterated support for ASEAN's central role and leadership in the evolving rules-based regional architecture in response to emerging challenges in the region, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter and other ASEAN instruments, including the TAC. The Heads of State and Government recognized ASEAN as the driving force in the maintenance of peace, security, stability and prosperity in the region, through the various ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). The Heads of State and Government noted the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad, strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern, in line with the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit, the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 10th Anniversary of the East Asia Summit and based on the established objectives, principles and modalities of the EAS, and the EAS will continue to be an open, inclusive, transparent, and outward looking Leaders-led forum. The Heads of State and Government further noted the progress of implementation of the Manila Plan of Action (POA) to Advance the Phnom Penh Declaration on the EAS Development Initiative (2018-2022), in areas of environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management, ASEAN connectivity, trade and economic, food security and maritime cooperation. The Heads of State and Government also look forward to the adoption of the successor POA 2023-2027 to build on the existing POA and further enhance EAS cooperation over the next five years. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the ARF's 30th anniversary in 2023, and reaffirmed the importance of the ARF as one of the main multilateral forums for political and security dialogue in the region, as well as promoting confidence building and preventive diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific. The Heads of State and Government noted the progress of implementation of ARF Ha Noi Plan of Action II (2020-2025), which has contributed to the region's overall efforts in effectively addressing the increasingly

complex regional and non-traditional security challenges. The Heads of State and Government noted that the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific also provides a guide for ASEAN's engagement in the wider Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions and noted that ASEAN-led mechanisms continue to serve as useful platforms for dialogue and cooperation to implement the Outlook. The Heads of State and Government also appreciated the on-going work of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) to support ASEAN in further implementing the APSC Blueprint 2025. The Heads of State and Government welcomed positive developments in maritime cooperation among ASEAN Member States and appreciated the efforts to strengthen regional maritime cooperation by utilizing existing ASEAN-led mechanisms, where appropriate. The Heads of State and Government encouraged the continued work of the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) which serves as a Regional Centre of Excellence in addressing the humanitarian aspects of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) for interested ASEAN Member States, and facilitating cooperation with other countries as well as relevant institutions, in contributing to the ARMAC's undertaking of projects and operationalisation.

683. The Heads of State and Government *noted* with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations to further advance and intensify the level of cooperation as well as to strengthen the framework of cooperation between ASEAN and the UN. The Heads of State and Government were pleased with the adoption of the Resolution 77/12 of 21 November 2022 on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations" by the General Assembly. The Heads of State and Government noted the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2021-2025). Through the implementation of this Plan of Action, ASEAN and the UN will continue to work together to support the realization of the ASEAN 2025-Forging Ahead Together and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a complementary manner. The Heads of State and Government also noted the progress made in initiatives such as the 7th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was held in Bangkok on 31 March 2023.

684. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the call to solve all sovereignty and territorial disputes in the South China Sea by peaceful means without resorting to force and/or the threat to use force, and urged all parties to exercise restraint with a view to creating a positive climate for the eventual resolution of all contentious issues. They reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea and recognised the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability and prosperity.

685. The Heads of State and Government underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. They warmly welcomed the continued improving cooperation between ASEAN and China and were encouraged by the progress of the substantive negotiations towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) within a mutually-agreed timeline. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the completion of the first reading of the Single Draft COC Negotiating Text. They emphasized the need to maintain and promote an environment conducive to the COC negotiations, and thus welcomed practical measures that could reduce tensions and the risk of accidents, misunderstandings and miscalculation. They stressed the importance of undertaking confidence building and preventive measures to enhance, among others, trust and confidence amongst parties; and they reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

686. The Heads of State and Government noted the concerns expressed by some ASEAN Member States on activities and incidents in the area, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region. They reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation, and pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law,

including the 1982 UNCLOS. They emphasized the importance all activities by claimants and all other states, including those mentioned in the DOC do not further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea.

687. The Heads of State and Government *further noted* the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings held on 10 May 2014, 8 August 2014, 4 August 2015, 24 July 2016, 5 August 2017, 2 August 2018, 31 July 2019 , 9 September 2020, 2 August 2021, 3 August 2022, and 11-12 July 2023 and the ASEAN Summits held on 11 May 2014, 21 November 2015, 6-7 September 2016, 13 November 2017, 13 November 2018 , 23 June 2019, 2-3 November 2019, 26 June 2020, 12 November 2020, 26 October 2021, 11 November 2022, and 5 September 2023 as well as their respective outcomes.

Syrian Arab Republic

688. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their determination to continue opposing any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity or territorial integrity of States, including the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as their commitment with respect to the sovereign equality, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the abstention from the threat or use of force, in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

689. The Heads of State and Government expressed their solidarity with and support to the Government and people of the Syrian Arab Republic in light of the devastating earthquake that struck it on 6 February 2023. They called upon the international community to scale up its humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation efforts to Syria, and welcomed the efforts undertaken by the Syrian Government in its response to the earthquake. They welcomed the Flash Appeal launched on 14 February by the United Nations Secretary-General calling for US\$397.6 million of emergency assistance to provide relief to the people in most acute need following the earthquake.

690. The Heads of State and Government condemn the imposition of unilateral coercive measures against the Syrian Arab Republic by the Government of the United States and the European Union, which are affecting the living conditions of the Syrians. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the so-called "Syria Accountability Act" and "Caesar Act" are contrary to international law and a violation of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. They called on the Government of the United States of America and the European Union, to declare these Acts as null and void.

691. The Heads of State and Government condemned the act of aggression committed by forces of the United States of America in Iraq against the Syrian Arab Republic on Sunday, 26 October 2008, which targeted a civilian building in the city of Abu Kamal and resulted in the death of eight Syrian civilians and injured one person. The Heads of State and Government considered this act as a grave violation of international law and Syrian sovereignty and a violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They further *expressed* the solidarity of the Movement with the people and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

692. The Heads of State and Government condemned, in the strongest possible terms, all acts of continued aggression committed by Israel against the Syrian Arab Republic, including the most recent aggressions committed on 1 May 2023, as well as the Israeli support for the armed terrorist groups designated by the UN Security Council in the area of separation in the occupied Syrian Golan and the convening of an Israeli cabinet meeting in the Occupied Syrian Golan on 26 December 2021, its statement to spend 317 million dollars to double the numbers of settlers in the occupied Syrian Golan by building two new settlements, the Israeli attempts to impose the so-called "local council" elections on 30 October 2018 on Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, the systematic policy of aggression that aims at seizing the land of Syrian people in the occupied Syrian Golan by forcing them to register their land with the Israeli Land Registration Office, the establishment of a wind power generating project which will lead to environmental ,

health and living disasters on the Syrian Arab citizens in Occupied Syrian Golan, and all other Israeli aggressive activities, as well as all statements issued regarding the status of the occupied Syrian Golan and, in particular, the proclamation made by the President of the United States on 25 March 2019. The Heads of State and Government considered these acts as grave violations of international law and Syrian sovereignty and a violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces of 1974. The Heads of State and Government, while expressing their solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic and holding Israel accountable for these acts of aggression and its consequences which threatens regional and international peace and security, request the security council to shoulder its responsibility by clearly condemning these acts of aggression and taking the necessary measures to prevent its recurrence.

693. The Heads of State and Government took note of the efforts of the international community to deal with the situation in Syria. They appreciated the efforts of Mr. Geir Pedersen, the UN Secretary-General Special Envoy, and his predecessor, as well as the efforts of the former joint Special Envoys, and invite all parties to engage sincerely in this process to find a peaceful political solution to the current crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process, based on Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015). They called upon all parties to allow the safe provision of humanitarian assistance to all those in need in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

694. The Heads of State and Government urged for the intensification of efforts and initiatives to expand humanitarian assistance in Syria, including early recovery projects aimed at providing water, sanitation, health, education and electricity, which are essential to restore access to basic services. They expressed concern at the low overall level of funding of the humanitarian response plan for the Syrian Arab Republic, and called for greater solidarity and increased humanitarian funding, including for early recovery and livelihood programs.

695. The Heads of State and Government expressed concern at the increasing number of refugees caused by the crisis in Syria, and *underscored* their appreciation for the significant efforts that have been made by the host countries of the region, notably Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt, to accommodate Syrian refugees, while acknowledging the enormous political, socioeconomic and financial impact of the presence of large-scale populations in these countries. They *urged* all Member States, based on burden sharing principles, to support the neighboring host countries to enable them to respond to the growing humanitarian needs, including by providing direct support, to the host countries. They appealed to the countries that have pledged to provide humanitarian assistance to fulfill their commitment. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the pledges totaling \$3.8 billion at the third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, hosted by Kuwait on 31 March 2015 and expressed their appreciation to Member States and regional and sub-regional organizations, which announced pledges in the Conference.

696. The Heads of State and Government commend Jordan for hosting Syrian refugees, and call upon the international community to assist the Kingdom as it shoulders the burdens of the refugee crisis and its repercussions.

Latin America and the Caribbean

697. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the positive political, economic, social changes and achievements in the region, which are contributing to the wellbeing of its peoples and to the reduction of poverty, as well as to the regional solidarity, integration, and cooperation with other regions. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government emphasized that the democratically elected governments must be supported and respected, and *stressed* their rejection of any destabilization attempt against those governments and their democratic systems. The Heads of State and Government recognized the commitment of the States of the region to the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of any State.

Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

698. The Heads of State and Government recalled the successful and historic founding Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States which took place in Caracas, Venezuela, on 2 and 3 December 2011 as an important additional step in the quest for integration and unity among the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and in the context of the bicentennial celebrations of the struggles for independence of many countries in the region.

699. The Heads of State and Government further *recognized* the great importance and significance of the First Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Santiago, Chile, on 27 and 28 January 2013, which initiated the works of the CELAC, bringing member countries together in a single regional body for dialogue and consultation with the goal of promoting the unity and integration of the region.

700. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the successful outcomes of the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Havana, Cuba, on January 28 and 29, 2014. They *further welcomed* the political will, reiterated by Heads of State and Government of the region on that occasion, to continue working together for Latin American and Caribbean integration and union as well as for the consolidation of the Community. They *further underlined* the importance of CELAC as an international and regional actor, and a contributor to the region's further integration into the international arena.

701. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the historic decision adopted by acclamation in January 29, 2014, by the Heads of State and/or Government at the II Summit of CELAC, gathered in Havana, Cuba, on the "Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace".

702. The Heads of State and Government *celebrated* the tenth anniversary of the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, *emphasized* the full validity of its postulates and *recalled* that the Proclamation, urges Member States of the international community to fully respect it in their relations with CELAC Member States.

703. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the successful outcomes of the Third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, held in Belén, Costa Rica, on January 28 and 29, 2015, in particular the Political Declaration of Belén, that recognized CELAC as the ideal mechanism for the promotion of dialogue and political coordination between the 33 countries of the Community, with a view to strengthen unity in diversity, integration, cooperation, solidarity and the development of national and regional capacities, allowing the Community to move towards greater prosperity and the well-being of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples.

704. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the successful outcomes of the Fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States-CELAC held in Quito, Ecuador, on January 27, 2016, in particular the "Political Declaration of Quito – Middle of the World", the CELAC 2016 Action Plan, and the various Special Declarations, having particular importance the one related to the 2025 CELAC Plan on Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger.

705. The Heads of State and Government also welcomed the successful outcomes of the Fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States - CELAC held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on January 25, 2017, in particular the "Political Declaration of Punta Cana", the CELAC Summit 2017 Action Plan and the Special Declarations on the return to the Republic of Cuba of the territory occupied by the US Naval Base in Guantanamo; on the Need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba; on the Question of the Malvinas Islands; on the particular challenges of Middle Income Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean; on

Financing for Development; on Migration and development; on The World Drug Problem; on Nuclear Disarmament; on the Promotion of Gender equality and Equity and eradication of Violence Against Women; on the International Year of Camelids; on the International Year of Indigenous Languages; on the Coca Leaf; on the Rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; on Sustainable Health Systems; on the Inclusion of CELAC member States on lists of non-cooperative jurisdictions; on the Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); on the Graduation criteria within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); on the 25th Anniversary of El Salvador's Peace Accords; on the 20th Anniversary of the Peace Agreements in Guatemala; on Transparency and institutional strengthening to combat corruption in Guatemala; and on the CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger eradication 2025 (FSN Plan CELAC 2025).

706. The Heads of State and Government *also welcomed* the successful outcomes of the Sixth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held in Mexico, on September 18, 2021, in particular the Political Declaration of Mexico City, that recognized the importance of this mechanism of concertation, unity and political dialogue, the mutual trust between its governments, the respect to differences, shared principles and values, and the need to address common challenges and advance "Unity in Diversity" based on regional consensus. In this context, they *reaffirm* its commitment to political, economic, social and cultural unity and integration, and its decision to continue working to address the health, social, economic and environmental crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, natural disasters, and degradation of the planet biodiversity, among others.

707. The Heads of State and Government *also welcomed* the successful outcomes of the Seventh Summit of the Heads of State and Government of CELAC, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on January 24, 2023, and, in this regard, noted the commitment of Member States of CELAC "to firmly advance in the process of integration, promoting unity and the political, economic, social and cultural diversity of their peoples, with the aim that Latin America and the Caribbean projects itself as a community of sovereign nations capable of deepening consensus on issues of common interest and contributing to the welfare and development of the region, as well as the urgent overcoming of poverty and existing inequalities and inequities", as reflected in the Political Declaration of Buenos Aires.

708. The Heads of State and Government *also welcomed* the reaffirmation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace in the framework of the Summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, as a significant contribution to international peace and security, along with the ongoing region's commitment to nuclear disarmament, the proscription of weapons of mass destruction globally and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and urged all UN Member States to fully respect the declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, in their relations with CELAC Member States.

709. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the call of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, which in addition to being contrary to international law, causes serious damage to the well-being of the Cuban people. They also welcomed CELAC rejection of the unilateral lists and certifications that affect Latin American and Caribbean countries, including their request to exclude Cuba from the unilateral list of countries that allegedly sponsor international terrorism.

710. The Heads of State and Government expressed their concern about several countries of Latin America and the Caribbean emerged from the pandemic with higher levels of public debt. They *also underlined* the need for international and regional financial institutions, such as Multilateral Development Banks, to optimize credit facilities through fair, transparent and accessible mechanisms without exclusions, that help countries that request them quickly recover from insolvency and access to international financial markets.

711. The Heads of State and Government *congratulated* Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the excellent manner in which it has conducted the Chairmanship of CELAC, noting that it is the

first Caribbean nation to hold that position, and *expressed* its leadership and ability has contributed to both promote and project the region of Latin America and the Caribbean in the debates and discussions of critical issues within the context of the global agenda, while advancing efforts towards the consolidation of regional integration. 698 bis. The Heads of State and Government *wished* success to the VII CELAC Summit, to be held on 1 March 2024, in Kingstown, St Vincent and the Grenadines, convinced that the meeting will contribute to strengthening regional integrity and unity and consolidating peace in Latin America and the Caribbean.

712. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights without discrimination. They *underlined* that democracy, sustainable development and the respect of all human rights, civil and political; economic, social and cultural rights, in their universal, indivisible and interdependent character, including the right to development, are all closely related and mutually reinforcing. In this context, they *highlighted* the importance of adopting measures aimed at promoting and protecting: the rights of people in situations of vulnerability, including indigenous people and people of African descent, migrants and persons with disabilities; women, gender equality, decent work and the eradication of child labor in the region, as part of the measures aimed at prioritizing children and adolescents as subjects of rights.

713. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that the historical processes of consolidating, safeguarding and fully exercising democracy in the Latin American and Caribbean region are irreversible, do not admit interruptions or setbacks and will continue being defined by the respect for the essential values of democracy; access to power and its exercise in accordance with the Rule of Law; respect for constitutional prerogatives of the different branches of Government and constructive dialogue among them; holding free, periodic, transparent, informed, universal and secret elections, as an expression of the people's sovereignty; civil participation; social justice and equality; combating corruption, and respecting all civil liberties enshrined in international instruments.

714. The Heads of State and Government recalled the decision of the CELAC Heads of State and Government adopted in Santiago at their First Summit stating that the unity and integration of the region of Latin America and Caribbean must be built gradually, with respect to pluralism and the sovereign right of each of our peoples to choose their manner of political and economic organization. They reiterated that the Community is founded on the unrestricted respect for international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the prohibition of use and threatened use of power, respect for self-determination, territorial integrity, non-intervention in the internal affairs of each country, protection and promotion of all human rights, the rule of law at national and international levels and democracy. Likewise, they commit to work together for the sake of prosperity for all, in such a way as to eradicate discrimination, inequalities and marginalization, violations of human rights, and transgressions of the rule of law.

715. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the decision adopted by the CELAC's Heads of State and Government at its Seventh Summit held in Buenos Aires on 24 January 2023, Argentina, to continue to strengthen consultation and coordination among CELAC's Member States, in the United Nations and other multilateral fora, in order to continue speaking out as a region, where appropriate and without prejudice to existing coordinating groups, on issues of interest and relevance to the Community's Member States, as well as to submit, when feasible and required, joint initiatives adopted by consensus.

716. The Heads of State and Government further *noted* the Quito Declaration, resulting from the First Meeting of the Ministers of Environment of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States, held on 3 February 2012 in Ecuador, as a significant step to advance sustainable development in the region and *noted* the issues identified therein for further discussion in the region, including: strengthening of regional financial mechanism and structures, universal declaration on rights of nature as an instrument to ensure good living, the full implementation of the rights of access to information participation and environmental justice,

the removal of barriers to access to technological innovation and strengthening of environmental education and training.

717. The Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of the CELAC Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025, which is based on four pillars aiming at guaranteeing the four dimensions of food security: food access, availability, use and stability, and acknowledged its contribution to the national efforts carried out by countries from the region to eradicate poverty and hunger.

Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

718. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the entry into force of the constitutive treaty of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) as a contribution to the cultural, social, economic and political integration of the region, and *welcomed* resolution 66/109 of 9 December 2011, which approved observer status for UNASUR in the United Nations General Assembly.

719. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the celebration of the VIII Summit of the Union of South American Nations, held in Guayaquil and Quito, Ecuador, on 4 and 5 December 2014, on the occasion of the hand-over of UNASUR Pro Tempore Presidency from Suriname to Uruguay, and the inauguration of the new headquarters of this Organization.

720. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the Summit of Heads of State and Government from South American countries, held on 30 May 2023, in Brasilia, Federative Republic of Brazil, aimed at exchanging views and perspectives on cooperation and the integration of South America. They noted, among others, the reaffirmation of “the common vision of South America as a region of peace and cooperation, based on dialogue and on the respect for the diversity of its peoples, committed to democracy and human rights, sustainable development and social justice, the rule of law and institutional stability, the upholding of sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs”, as well as the commitment to regional integration as a means for facing common challenges, as reflected in the Brasilia Consensus.

ALBA – TCP – PETROCARIBE

721. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed and encouraged* original initiatives such as the “Bolivarian Alternative for the People of Our America-People’s Trade Treaty” (ALBA- TCP), PETROCARIBE and the Framework Agreement of the Single System of Regional Payments Compensation (SUCRE, for its Spanish Acronym), which are promoted in the Latin American and Caribbean region, under the principles of cooperation, solidarity and complementarity, covering energy, social justice, food sovereignty, and monetary and economic sectors; and highlighted that these experiences demonstrate, *inter alia*, that a new international economic order is progressively emerging.

Summits of Arab and South American countries

722. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the successful Second Summit of Arab and South American countries, held in Doha, Qatar on 31 March 2009, including its follow-up mechanisms to advance their mutual interests forward. They also *welcomed* the Third Summit of the Arab and South American Countries held in Lima, Peru, on 1 and 2 October 2012, recognized the impetus it gave to the ongoing efforts to strengthen the relations and solidarity and cooperation between the two regions. They welcomed as well the Fourth Summit of Arab and South American Countries held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2015. They *look forward* to the prompt convening of the Fifth Summit of Arab and South American Countries, with a view to continue advancing in the strengthening of the bi-regional cooperation, and engaging on discussions on matters of mutual interest, including common challenges.

Summits of Africa-South American Countries

723. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the holding of the Second Africa-South America Summit of Ministers (ASA), in Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 26 and 27 September 2009 as an expression of strengthening friendship, solidarity and South-South cooperation between both regions. They *underscored* the importance of this historic Summit as the first to be held following the establishment of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). They also *welcomed* the Third Summit of Africa and South American Countries, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in February 2013.

Central America: a Mine-Free Zone

724. The Heads of State and Government welcomed with satisfaction that Nicaragua was declared a Mine-Free Country on 18 June 2010, thus resulting in the recognition of Central America as the first zone in the world free of landmines.

Zone of Peace: Gulf of Fonseca

725. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the decision recently taken by the Heads of States of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua to establish a "Zone of peace, sustainable development and security in the Gulf of Fonseca», and *agreed* that this decision constitutes an important step forward to strengthen the integration and unity process of the Central American nations and peoples.

Nicaragua

726. The Heads of State and Government recalled the support expressed by the eighth Summit of the Movement (NAM), in its paragraph 229, in Harare-Zimbabwe 1986, regarding the historic judgement of June 27, 1986, in the case of Nicaragua vs. the United States of America, support Nicaragua's request for compliance with judicial decision issued by the International Court of Justice to compensate Nicaragua.

Colombia

727. The Heads of State and Government expressed their full and unanimous support for the Total Peace initiative. They reaffirmed their commitment to continue accompanying the Colombian people on their journey towards peace. They underlined that Colombia's peace process continued to serve as a prime example to the world of the possibility of resolving armed conflict through dialogue. They welcomed renewed momentum on the comprehensive implementation of the Final Peace Agreement under the framework of the policy of Total Peace of Government of President Petro. They welcomed the incorporation of key peace implementation priorities in the National Development Plan of Colombia.

728. The Heads of State and Government welcomed and supported the Total Peace initiative of Colombia and celebrated the commitment of its government to the full implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreements, adopted between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP, as well as the commitment to advance in dialogues with the ELN guerrillas, and other armed actors, generators of violence.

729. The Heads of State and Government expressed their support for Colombia's commitment to continue working to achieve and consolidate total peace in its territory through the promotion of a change in social structures and patriarchal models that have favored discrimination and inequality and acknowledged that these initiatives will result in better opportunities for development and prosperity for this nation. In the same way, they recognized that this commitment is an important contribution to the fulfillment of the provisions of the proclamation of Latin American and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

730. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation for constant support of the international community and the United Nations in the achievement of peace in Colombia.

Cuba

731. The Heads of State and Government, once again *reiterated* their call to the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba that constitutes the major impediment for its full development and to eliminate the additional unilateral measures imposed since 2017 which strengthen the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. They also *urged* the President of the United States to use his broad executive powers to substantially modify the embargo which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the UN Charter and international law, and to the principle of neighborliness, is causing huge material losses and economic damage to the people of Cuba, and exacerbates the social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. They once again *urged* strict compliance with resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4, 54/21, 55/20, 56/9, 57/11, 58/7, 59/11, 60/12, 61/11, 62/3, 63/7, 64/6, 65/6, 66/6, 67/4, 68/8, 69/5, 70/5, 71/5, 72/4, 73/8, 74/7, 75/289, 77/7 and 78/7 of the UN General Assembly, and adherence to the fundamental principles of sovereign equality, non-interference and non-intervention as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. They *expressed* deep concern over the widening of the extra-territorial nature of the embargo against Cuba, including the full implementation of Chapter III of the Helms-Burton Act, and *rejected* the reinforcement of the financial measures adopted by the Government of United States, aimed at tightening the embargo.

732. The Heads of State and Government rejected the arbitrary inclusion of Cuba in the unilateral list of States that allegedly sponsor terrorism issued by the government of the United States of America. This measure has reinforced the effects of the embargo, including Cuba's difficulties to carry out financial and commercial operations, threatening the livelihood and integrity of the Cuban population. In this regard, they requested the immediate exclusion of Cuba from this list.

733. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need to put an end to aggressive radio and television transmission against Cuba, as well as the use, contrary to the principles of International Law, of Information and Communication Technologies, including social networks, to incite subversion against the Cuban constitutional order. They *reiterated* that those measures constitute a violation of Cuba's sovereignty and a massive violation of the human rights of its people.

734. The Heads of State and Government concerned *over* the illegal occupation, against the will of the Cuban people, of part of its territory for more than a century, *urged* the Government of the United States to return the territory now occupied by the Guantanamo Naval Base to Cuban sovereignty;

735. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged Cuba's leadership as president of the Group of the 77 in 2023, and the Cuban commitment to promote during its mandate the effective cooperation and coordination between NAM and G-77 in areas of common interest.

Panama

736. The Heads of State and Government recalled the firm support and solidarity offered by the Movement to the people and Government of Panama in its struggle for the recovery of the Canal and exerts effective sovereignty over all its territory. In this occasion, the Heads of State and Government conveyed to the Government of Panama their recognition for the efficient operation and administration of the Panama Canal under Panamanian control and *congratulated* the nation for the beginning of the construction of the third set of locks of this strategic pathway serving world trade and communications.

Venezuela

737. The Heads of State and Government recalled that, 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the demise of the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías, on 5 March 2013, and *paid tribute* to his memory and legacy as one of the chief promoters and founders of CELAC, a relentless humanist and champion of Latin American and Caribbean unity, who fought against social exclusion and poverty and fostered integral development in the region. They *further recalled* his outstanding work undertaken in the promotion of peace, political independence, respect to sovereignty, self-determination of peoples, respect for and promotion of all human rights and development, including the strengthening of South-South Cooperation, as well as his firm commitment in the defense of the guiding principles of the Non-Aligned Movement.

738. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the terrorist attack on a *Cubana de Aviación* aircraft in October 1976, which caused the death of 73 innocent civilians, and *regretted* that, despite the request interposed by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Government of the United States for the extradition of Luis Posada Carriles, indicted for charges of terrorism in Venezuela, to the date of his demise, in 2018, in the city of Miami, United States of America, he remained at large, with the protection of the U.S. government, contrary to its relevant international obligations, a situation that ultimately impeded justice from ever being served on such a heinous act.

739. In this context, the Heads of State and Government also *rejected* the protection continued to be given by the government of the United States of America to Venezuelan citizens Raul Diaz Pena, Jose Antonio Colina, and German Rodolfo Varela, accused and sentenced for perpetrating terrorist acts in Venezuela, in contravention of relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as relevant international instruments related to measures to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which thus continue to impede the efforts of the Venezuelan authorities to bring them to justice. They *stressed*, in this context, the importance of ensuring that safe haven is denied to the perpetrators of terrorist acts or to any person who supports, facilitates or participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts.

740. The Heads of State and Government expressed support for the Constitutional Government of President Nicolás Maduro Moros, who was democratically elected by the majority of the Venezuelan people on April 14 2013 and re-elected on 20 May 2018 for the 2019-2025 constitutional term. They further *expressed* their unwavering solidarity with and full support to the delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela designated by President Nicolás Maduro Moros to the United Nations, in line with the Rules of Procedure of the UN General Assembly, in the exercise of its official duties and diplomatic responsibilities, particularly in case of any attempt to undermine its rights and privileges as a full Member State of the United Nations or to challenge its legitimate credentials.

741. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their condemnation and repudiation at the frustrated attempt of assassination occurred on 4 August 2018, in Caracas, Venezuela, against President Nicolás Maduro Moros, and *urged* for the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this criminal act to be brought to justice.

742. The Heads of State and Government recalled the acts of political violence that took place in Venezuela in 2014 and 2017, aimed at destabilizing the democratically elected government of President Mr. Nicolás Maduro Moros, democratic institutions and the rule of law in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, *further recalled* that social peace was regained following the convening of a National Constituent Assembly, elected on 30 July 2017 through universal, direct and secret ballot, and under which three electoral processes were successfully held throughout 2017 and 2018 for choosing the municipal, regional and presidential authorities in Venezuela, and *recognized* that, while challenges remain, including as a result of external factors, the social and political situation has been improved and stabilized in the nation, following a continued process of dialogue and engagement amongst all vibrant sectors of society.

743. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the reiterated public calls of President Nicolás Maduro Moros for engaging in a political dialogue with all sectors of the Venezuelan society, with a view to finding solutions to the country's common challenges, and, in this regard, *welcomed* the positive results yielded by such calls. They stressed that the current situation in Venezuela must be settled amongst Venezuelans, through peaceful and political means, and, in this regard, rejected any attempt for a military solution, including the use or threat of use of force.

744. The Heads of State and Government noted that presidential elections are scheduled for 2024, remained confident on the robust participative and protagonist model of democracy prevailing in Venezuela, and looked forward to the holding of said electoral process in a civic and peaceful manner, while firmly rejecting any attempt from external forces to meddle into or disrupt it for the purpose of curtailing the right to self-determination, as well as the sovereignty and political independence of the Venezuelan people.

745. The Heads of State and Government, in line with the Principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture, rejected any attempt to change the legitimate government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela through unconstitutional means, including the failed coup attempt of 30 April 2019, as well as attempts to destabilize the social peace of the nation, including through the resort to groups of mercenaries and terrorists, as was done on 03 May 2020 during the frustrated Gedeon Operation that sought the perpetration of criminal acts, including targeted assassinations against high-level officials of the Venezuelan government, including against President Nicolás Maduro Moos.

746. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their concern over the increase of the action by the Government of the United States of America, aimed at affecting the stability of Venezuela, as indicated in its most recent National Security Strategy, which reaffirms that it will continue working to isolate the Venezuelan government, including the establishment (in Venezuela) of an office to increase intelligence-gathering and espionage against Venezuela and Cuba.

747. The Heads of State and Government categorically *rejected* the decisions of the Government of the United States to ratify its unilateral coercive measures against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on 3 March 2016, 13 January 2017, 2 March 2018, 5 March 2019, 5 March 2020, 3 March 2021, 3 March 2022, and 1 March 2023, under the Executive Order signed by President Barack Obama, which declares “a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Venezuela”, and that has served as the basis for the illegal promulgation and implementation of over 900 unilateral coercive measures against the entire Venezuelan people, representing to date the greatest obstacle for the nation's development plans.

748. The Heads of State and Government *rejected* the unilateral coercive measures imposed on high-ranking officials of the Venezuelan State, as well as the economic, commercial and financial unilateral coercive measures illegally imposed against the nation since 25 August 2017, which have a direct impact on the Venezuelan people, affecting the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the realization of their right to development, and which have also resulted, on top human losses, in great economic losses and the illegal confiscation and pillage of Venezuelan financial resources and assets abroad, amounting to over USD \$500 billions altogether. The Heads of State and Government expressed their concern at this illegal, arbitrary and unilateral practice that constitutes a breach of international law and goes against the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, and, thus, *await with interest* the opening of an investigation of the International Criminal Court (ICC), as per the referral made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on 13 February 2020, that could determine the commission of crimes against humanity against the Venezuelan people, as provided by Article 7 of the Rome Statute, resulting from the application of the unilateral coercive measures that have been illegally

imposed by the government of the United States of America against Venezuela since at least the year 2014.

749. The Heads of State and Government deplored these disproportionate measures and reiterated their firm support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in line with the Bandung Principles. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government emphasized the need to respect international law, including the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and the Declaration of Principles of International Law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

750. The Heads of State and Government urged the United States Government to derogate in a complete, immediate and unconditional manner such unilateral and interventionist coercive measures that affect the spirit of dialogue and political understanding among nations. The Heads of State and Government also *encouraged* the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to engage in a constructive dialogue.

751. The Heads of State and Government *noted* with concern the recent decision of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to proceed with an investigation on the alleged commission of crimes under its purview in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, despite the demonstrated cooperation with the Prosecutor of the ICC in this regard and the ongoing procedures in place in Venezuela, in exercise of its national criminal jurisdiction and in line with its relevant domestic and international obligations. They *further noted* that such a course of action violates the principle of complementarity, as foreseen in the Rome Statute of the ICC, and therefore *called* on the ICC to avoid its works from being politicized and weaponized, as part of lawfare efforts that only serve agendas of dubious nature, and to preserve both the integrity of the Rome Statute and the independence of the Court.

752. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the continued commitment of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the field of human rights, as well as the increased cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who visited Caracas as recent as from 26-28 January 2023, and his Office, especially following the signing and subsequent renewal of a letter of understanding on 14 September 2020, as acknowledged in Human Rights Council resolution HRC/45/2, and which led to the permanent presence of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In this context, they *stressed*, among others, the importance of constructive dialogue, respect, trust and cooperation, in order to ensure both the success and legitimacy of any human rights-related mechanism, especially if of a country-specific nature. Moreover, they *called for* greater efficiency in the use of available resources, conscious of the financial situation of the United Nations, including in terms of liquidity, and *highlighted* their concern at the ever-increasing amount of funds required for financing non-consensus mechanisms, particularly that foreseen in Human Rights Council resolution HRC/45/20, which do not count with the consent or support of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in light of its politicized and interventionist nature.

Bolivia

753. The Heads of State and Government congratulated the Plurinational State of Bolivia for its performance as a non-permanent member of the Security Council during its 2017-2018 membership, an opportunity in which Bolivia promoted the principles and values of the UN Charter to strengthen international law.

754. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the Special Declaration on the Coca Leaf of the Heads of State of Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of the summit of the community of Latin America and Caribbean States held in La Havana, Cuba, on January 29 2014, that acknowledges the importance of preserving the cultural and traditional practices of indigenous people in respect of their human and fundamental rights and in conformity with the relevant international instruments and recognizes Coca leaf chewing (akulliku) as an ancestral

cultural manifestation of the people of Bolivia that must be respected by the international community.

755. The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* the action taken by the United States of America in regards to the "Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015", leading to the implementation of extraterritorial measures, which is in violation of purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

756. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their deep concern about the developments that followed the presidential elections held on 20 October 2019 in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and, in this regard, they hoped that such a crisis never occurs again in any country, and called for the full and constant respect of the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, while reaffirming the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture.

757. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* that the rule of law was restored in Bolivia after the interruption of the democratic order caused by the coup d'état against the government of Evo Morales that followed the October 2019 elections, and *expressed* their unwavering support and solidarity to the Constitutional Government of President Luis Alberto Arce Catacora and the process underway in the Plurinational State of Bolivia aimed at ensuring that the entire population enjoys a real and effective participation in the country's affairs without any kind of exclusion or discrimination, as well as the exercising of full sovereignty over their natural resources for the benefit of all Bolivians.

Ecuador

758. The Heads of State and Government expressed solidarity with the Government of Ecuador on the 2023 earthquake in Ecuador. They *congratulated* Ecuador on its election as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2023 and 2024. They welcomed the first edition of the annual workshop organized by Ecuador on the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council. They welcome Ecuador's commitment to shared goals and values related to multilateralism, international cooperation, democracy, security, human rights, anti-corruption, climate change, migration, counter-terrorism and combat to international organized crime. They expressed appreciation for Ecuador's efforts in promoting and protecting human rights, rights of women, children, and indigenous persons.

Europe

759. The Heads of State and Government, recalling the position previously reflected in NAM Outcome Documents on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and noting recent developments on the ground, and welcoming ongoing negotiations, reaffirmed their support to the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders.

760. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their solidarity with the Government and people of Azerbaijan in their efforts to rehabilitate, reconstruct and reintegrate the conflict-affected territories to enable the earliest safe and dignified return of IDPs. They expressed concern that land mines and Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) in conflict-affected territories present an obstacle and called for international assistance in this regard.

CHAPTER III **DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

Introduction

761. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (resolution 3201 (S-VI)) and the validity of their major principles by which the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed its determination to work urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations.

762. The Heads of State and Government *associated* themselves with and *reaffirmed* all of the positions of the Group of 77 and China concerning economic, social, and environmental development issues and other related issues, as contained, inter alia, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, Monterrey Consensus, Doha Declaration and Addis Ababa action agenda on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, adopted under the UNFCCC, the New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, 21-22 March 2019), the outcome documents of the First and Second South Summits held in Havana, Cuba in 2000, and Doha, Qatar in 2005, respectively, the Declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, June 14-15, 2014, and the Annual Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 and China held in New York on 23 September 2022. Likewise, they *reaffirmed* the Movement's commitment to work towards the full implementation of the decisions and recommendations contained in those documents, and called on the international community, including international financial institutions as well as regional development banks, to support efforts of developing countries, toward that end.

763. The Heads of State and Government *renewed their commitment* to achieving sustainable development in an integrated and balanced manner of its three pillars: economic development, including sustained and inclusive growth, social development and protection of the environment, according to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, adopted under the UNFCCC, and the New Urban Agenda and the outcome document of the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation. They stressed the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the importance of assessing the implementation gaps in achieving sustainable development, and identifying the obstacles and ways and means to address them, and enhancing focus on the overriding priority of poverty eradication, and enhance greater support from developed countries towards means of implementation, and reaffirmed the commitments outlined therein.

764. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions should remain the center piece of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They also stressed the need to strengthen ECOSOC in its mandate to review and follow-up the implementation of the outcomes of all the major UN conferences and summits in the social, economic and related fields. They further acknowledged the continuing importance of regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development.

765. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* that the high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets in a balanced and integrated manner, providing political leadership, guidance and recommendations,

working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in line with existing mandates. They *recalled* the political declaration and the ministerial declarations adopted by the forum in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and took note of the convening of the SDG Summit under the auspices of the General Assembly on 18-19 September 2023 and its political declaration, which was co-facilitated by Qatar and Ireland, recognizing its importance for maintaining political momentum in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

766. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance to conduct the voluntary national reviews (VNRs), as part of follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders. The VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. They also commended NAM Member States that have presented their Voluntary National Review Reports since the XVIII NAM Summit.

767. The Heads of State and Government *took note* that the theme of the 2020 HLPF was “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”²³ and that for 2021 was “*Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*”²⁴, and that for 2022 was “Building back better from the corona virus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ”²⁵ where individual thematic SDGs were reviewed. They *also took note* that the theme of the 2023 HLPF was “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”²⁶.

768. The Heads of State and Government further stressed that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development carry forward and finish the unfinished business of the MDGs. The human development imperatives enshrined in the MDGs, including eradication of poverty and hunger, promoting universal education, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, reducing

²³ The 2020 High-Level Political Forum reviewed the following set of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals: The whole 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

²⁴ The 2021 High-Level Political Forum will review the following set of 2030 Agenda Goals: Goals 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere; Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture; Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries; Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, that will be considered each year.

²⁵ The 2022 High-Level Political Forum will review the following set of 2030 Agenda Goals: Goals 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development; Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, and Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, that will be considered each year.

²⁶ The 2023 High-Level Political Forum will review the following set of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, that will be considered each year.

infant mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases must remain at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

769. The Heads of State and Government further reiterated that the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals can only be met within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, supported by the concrete policies and actions as outlined in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015. They also *recognized* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. They welcomed UN General Assembly resolution 77/156 and look forward to the deliberations on the convening of a IV International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025, as well as the development of the corresponding modalities for this conference by the Assembly, while bearing in mind the commitments of past United Nations international conferences on financing for development.

770. The Heads of State and Government took *note of* the Sustainable Development Goals Summit (SDG Summit), held on 18-19 September 2023, which will have provided an opportunity to follow-up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and carry out a comprehensive review of the state of the SDGs.

771. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the progress made on the operationalization of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. They *recalled* that the mechanism should address gaps throughout the full technology cycle - research, development, demonstration, market formation and diffusion - as well as all the steps involved in technology transfer, notably: (a) identification of the need and the technology of interest; (b) the potential sources, costs and negotiations for access; (c) the actual transfer of technology; (d) adaptation and learning to operate and maintain the technology; and (e) use and further upgrade of the acquired technologies.

772. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the three components of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and in this regard recalled with appreciation the convening of the seventh and eighth annual multi-stakeholder forums on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, held on 4 to 5 May 2021, 5 to 6 May 2022 and 3 to 4 May 2023, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as well as the mapping exercise carried out by the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, welcomed the operationalization of the Online Platform (2030 Connect) as a gateway for information on existing STI initiatives, mechanisms and programs, and *called* for voluntary contributions for resources to support the full operationalization of all components of the Mechanism.

773. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in global governance. The Heads of State and Government also reaffirmed their view that moving towards a more legitimate and accountable global governance demands the inclusive representation, universal participation and democratic process of the United Nations General Assembly. Efforts to reform the international financial architecture should therefore be seriously strengthened, should be internationally coordinated and should lead to the full participation of developing countries in international financial and economic decision-making and norm-setting. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their support for a comprehensive reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions, including the enhancement in the voting powers of developing countries in a time-bound manner which would enable greater equity between developed and developing countries.

774. The Heads of State and Government *expressed deep concern* over the multiple inter-related and mutually exacerbating global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, the food security and nutrition crisis, the volatile energy prices, as well as the challenges posed by climate change, the environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, pollution and desertification,

which reversed many important developmental gains in developing countries and have undermined the achievement of sustainable development.

775. The Heads of State and Government *noted* with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, noting the importance of solidarity amongst the Global South, achieved through the supply of vaccines between developing countries, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind.

776. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* UNEA resolution 3/1, titled "Pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism", and noted the long-term social and economic consequences of the degradation of the environment and natural resources resulting from pollution caused by armed conflict or terrorism, which include, inter alia, the loss of biodiversity, the loss of crops or livestock, and lack of access to clean water and agricultural land, and the negative and sometimes irreversible impacts on ecosystem services and their impact on sustainable recovery, contributing to further forced displacement related to environmental factors, and commended Iraq for proposing this initiative.

777. The Heads of State and Government recognized that changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in developed countries, is essential for achieving global sustainable development, and stressed the need for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development, poverty eradication, happiness and well-being of all peoples.

778. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption by the UN General Assembly of resolution 77/178 entitled "Promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, for poverty eradication and environment protection and in this regard, *emphasized* the strategic role of sustainable tourism in socio-economic development of the South and expressed their wish to have a common approach to boost cooperation in tourism strategy and promoting sustainable tourism in Member States.

779. The Heads of State and Government emphasized that the pandemic has highlighted the importance of building an increasingly sustainable and resilient tourism sector, and has demonstrated that this requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation. In this sense, they noted that the recovery of the tourism sector offers an opportunity to transform it, with a special focus on leveraging its impact on destinations to foster models based on the promotion of local culture, creating more sustainable, resilient communities and businesses through innovation, incorporating the concerns, needs and ideas of youth in the development of sustainable tourism, in addition to public-private partnerships that encourage investment in sustainable travel and infrastructure, taking as a premise the need to restore confidence and accelerate the recovery of the sector, offering a common and harmonized approach that promotes cooperation among Member States.

780. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation General Assembly resolution 67/291 entitled "Sanitation for all" in July 2013, designating 19 November as World Toilet Day in the context of Sanitation for All to draw attention to the need to improve access to adequate sanitation worldwide. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government urged all member states, as well as the organizations of the United Nations system, international organizations and

other relevant stakeholders, to accelerate progress in order to achieve sustainable Development Goal 6 and other SDGs related to sanitation.

781. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the need for the international community, in particular developed countries, to assist developing countries' efforts to fully implement all internationally agreed development goals, especially the SDGs, emphasizing its efforts to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere by 2030. However, they *noted with concern* that this purpose is still a goal to be achieved. Therefore, they further called on the international community, in particular developed countries to continue supporting developing countries' efforts with enhanced means of implementation aimed at integrating the principles of sustainable development into their national development strategies.

782. The Heads of State and Government stressed that each country has the sovereign right to determine its own development priorities and strategies, and called upon the international community to categorically reject any conditionality in the provision of development assistance.

783. The Heads of State and Government insisted on the need for undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels for the full implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. They further *called for* the early and full implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building for the developing countries.

784. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that climate change poses serious risks and challenges, in particular to developing countries, and *called for* urgent global action to address this challenge in accordance with the principles and provisions of the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC, in particular the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They *reaffirmed* that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and that efforts to address climate change should promote the integration of all three components of sustainable development that is economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars, in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner.

785. In this context, the Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the successful hosting of the Leaders' Summit of the Group of 77 and China on the margins of the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This meeting of the Group of 77 and China, held for the first time, contributed to reinforce the voice of the South with regard to international climate debates and negotiations.

786. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of the 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, including a new strategic objective on drought, and strongly encouraged the parties to the Convention to apply and align with the Strategic Framework in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification, land degradation and drought, including in their national action programmes, as appropriate, and to implement the Strategic Framework, taking into account the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

787. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need for enhanced policy space for developing countries to allow them to undertake their own development strategies and policies, in accordance with the principle of national ownership and leadership of the development process. In that regard, the Heads of State and Government *recognized* the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rules-based regimes for international economic relations have meant that the space for national economic

policy, i.e. the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment, and industrial development, which is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations. It is for each government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space, and *emphasized* that it is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments.

788. The Heads of State and Government *underscored* that foreign direct investment is a major source of financing for development, that it has a critical role in achieving development objectives and inclusive economic growth, including through the promotion of job creation and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and that it contributes to the active participation of developing countries in the global economy and facilitates regional economic cooperation and integration, and in this regard called upon developed countries to encourage and facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment to developing countries.

789. The Heads of State and Government expressed *the need* to encourage greater direct investment, including foreign direct investment, to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially in the context of the economic and financial crisis, to support their development activities, in line with their national priorities. In this regard, they urged developed countries to take measures to increase investment flows, particularly foreign direct investments, to developing countries and avoid protectionist measures, which impede such flows.

790. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* that economic development, including inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and policies which seek to enhance productive capacities in developing countries, can generate employment and income for the poor and, therefore, be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving internationally agreed development goals. They particularly underscored the importance of industrial development for developing countries, as a major contributor to economic growth, economic diversification and value addition.

791. Noting the interdependence of nations and the varying levels of human development world-wide, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the need for a New Global Human Order aimed at reversing growing disparities between rich and poor, both among and within countries including through the promotion of poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work, and social integration. In this context, they recalled with appreciation the adoption by the UN General Assembly of resolutions 65/120, 67/230, 69/202 and 73/240 on the role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order and in particular the request contained therein for a report by the Secretary General to include an updated overview of the major international economic and policy challenges for equitable and inclusive sustained economic growth and sustainable development and of the role of the United Nations in addressing those issues, as well as possible ways and means to overcome those challenges, bearing in mind the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and the principles contained therein, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the light of the relevant principles contained in the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

792. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that inequality within and among countries is a concern for all countries regardless of their level of development and that it represents a growing challenge with multiple implications for the realization of economic and social potential and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and *stressed* the need to address the persistent and significant disparities between developed and developing countries and inequalities between the rich and the poor and between rural and urban populations. In this context, The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the importance of greater consideration

of the impact of social and economic inequalities in development, including in the design and implementation of development strategies.

793. The Heads of State and Government encouraged the use of innovations in information technologies that can further contribute to improving the outreach of traditional media sectors such as printed, audio and visual media, and facilitated the creation of new media platforms such as digital social networking. Such platforms are significant to further promote sustainable social and economic development, overcome the marginalization and lack of development of developing countries, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development, tolerance, mutual respect and understanding of cultural and religious diversity with the aim of contributing to global peace, while expressing concern over the use of such innovations for purposes contrary to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as for incitement to hatred on the basis of religion or belief, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances, terrorism and extremism.

794. The Heads of State and Government *underscored* the need for a strengthened and scaled-up global partnership for development, based on the recognition of national leadership and ownership of development strategies. They emphasized that international cooperation must be enhanced; including fulfillment of commitments of internationally agreed official development assistance, debt relief, market access, capacity building and technical support, including technology transfer.

795. The Heads of State and Government highlighted the importance of assessing progress, identifying obstacles and challenges to the implementation of the financing for development outcomes, addressing new and emerging topics of relevance to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as the need arises, and providing policy recommendations for action by the international community, in particular regarding the support of developed countries for developing countries.

796. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the informal interactive dialogue on commodity markets held on 31 March 2022, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 76/194, which reviewed recent trends and prospects in global commodities markets in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery process, discussed strategies for economic structural transformation and economic and export diversification as well as the role of technology in economic and export diversification.

797. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the establishment of the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda by the seventy-fourth President of the General Assembly and the seventy-fifth President of the Economic and Social Council, in response to the invitation, in General Assembly resolution 74/206, to give appropriate consideration to the importance of combating illicit financial flows and strengthening good practices on assets return to foster sustainable development. They also welcomed its report released in February 2021, and its 14 recommendations.

798. The Heads of State and Government urged the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and its subcommittees to fulfill their mandate to consider how new and emerging issues affect international cooperation in tax matters such as, tax evasion, with a view to eventually eliminating tax evasion through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation, taking into account the best practices and lessons learned on tax policy and administration.

799. The Heads of State and Government committed to scaling up international tax cooperation and noted with appreciation that, in response to the call of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Republic of India has made a voluntary contribution in second successive year to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters, the only such contribution since its establishment by the Secretary-General in order to supplement regular budgetary resources. They reiterated their appeal to Member States, relevant organizations and other potential donors to consider

contributing generously to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters established and invited the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to that end.

Financial and economic challenges caused by current multiple and interlinked crises

800. The Heads of State and Government expressed their deep concern at financial and economic challenges caused by current multiple and interlinked crises and their negative impacts on sustainable development aggravated by the social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. They also recognized that these challenges have further accentuated the deficiencies and imbalances in the global financial and economic governance systems. In this context, they *urged* the international community to work on a vigorous, coordinated and comprehensive global response to the crises, particularly to minimize the negative effects on the development efforts of developing countries and to ensure that development assistance commitments are not compromised, and to undertake immediate actions and initiatives to overcome these challenges. In this regard, they recognized the central role of the United Nations.

801. They recognized the need to continue and intensify efforts to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, reiterate the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national efforts to ensure sustainable development, including strong, sustained, balanced, inclusive and equitable economic growth, and that all men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources and appropriate financial services, and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encouraged the international financial institutions to align their programmes and policies with the 2030 Agenda in accordance with their mandates.

802. The Heads of State and Government expressed *the need* to enhance regional and sub-regional efforts including, inter alia, through regional development banks, such as the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, the Bank of the South, the Bank of ALBA, “Corporacion Andina de Fomento” CAF and the Inter-American Development Bank, as part of a global coordinated efficient response to deal with financial and economic challenges caused by current multiple and interlinked crises. In this context they also noted the “Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization” that aims to assist ASEAN+3 countries to address liquidity problems.

803. The Heads of State and Government were *convinced* that the international financial and economic crisis and the resulting downturn in global economic growth severely affected in particular the economies of developing countries, inter alia, through decrease in trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and increased contractions and high costs of credit, thereby negatively impacting on the realization of the right to development, constraining social investment, deepening poverty and raising unemployment rates. The Heads of State and Government also *urged* that economic policies adopted by developed countries should not undermine global growth, particularly in developing countries. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need to address the situation with the goal of promoting human development, including through actions aimed at supporting strong, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increased trade, through enhanced market access and trade financing for developing countries, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

804. The Heads of State and Government recognized that financial and economic challenges caused by current multiple and interlinked crises have the potential to undermine the progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government *urged* the developed countries to fulfill their ODA commitments in a timely and predictable manner, as has been agreed in the Major United Nations Conferences and Summits. They also *underscored* the need for additional financing to address the crisis, as failure to do so, will severely jeopardize the achievement of the IADGs, including SDGs.

805. The Heads of State and Government stressed that financial and economic challenges caused by current multiple and interlinked crises had exacerbated the ongoing global food crisis, and also undermined the efforts of developing countries to achieve food security. They *expressed* their concern that this situation continues eroding progress already achieved and is pushing millions of people into poverty and hunger. In this regard, they urged developed countries to fulfill their commitments to support developing countries to face the crisis.

806. The Heads of State and Government further *highlighted* the urgent need for a substantive and comprehensive reform of the international economic and financial system and architecture, including policies, practices, mandates, scope and governance, to enable it to better respond and prevent financial and economic emergencies, effectively promote development and equitably serve the needs of Member States, particularly developing countries. They underscored that such reform has to be implemented, with the perspective that developing countries should not have to choose between achieving sustainable development and addressing climate change, and in a way that enables them to better respond to the multiple overlapping global crises and build resilience for future ones. International Financial Institutions in particular must have a clear development orientation. The Heads of State and Government *called on* all Member States to participate in an open, inclusive and transparent dialogue for a new international economic and financial system and architecture.

807. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the need for further reallocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), as well as rechanneling them to MDBs and RDBs, which will provide additional liquidity to the global economic system. Furthermore, they highlighted that an adequate consideration should be given to the elimination or minimization of IMF surcharges on non-concessional finance to low and middle-income countries.

808. The Heads of State and Government also *expressed* deep concern at the inadequate voice and representation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods Institutions, including the existing lack of representation of developing countries at the top leadership and higher management positions at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

809. The Heads of State and Government *called on* the shareholders of multilateral development banks and international financial institutions to reform multilateral development bank practices and priorities, align and scale up funding, ensure simplified access and mobilize climate finance from various sources and encourage multilateral development banks to define a new vision and commensurate operational model, channels and instruments that are fit for the purpose of adequately addressing the global climate emergency, including deploying a full suite of instruments, from grants to guarantees and non-debt instruments, taking into account debt burdens, and to address risk appetite, with a view to substantially increasing climate finance. Additionally, the Heads of State and Government highlighted the need to increase the multilateral development banks lending capacities, by increasing private capital, as well as by boosting grant and concessional finance, in order to help developing countries achieve poverty eradication, as well as other Sustainable Development Goals.

810. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the urgency of reforming the international financial system, including through an ambitious and expeditious reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, particularly their governance structures, based on the full and fair representation of developing countries, in order to address the democratic deficit in those institutions and improve their legitimacy; and that these reforms must reflect current realities and ensure the full voice and participation of developing countries to support developing countries in the implementation of activities for sustainable development, including through the provision of resources, without conditionalities.

811. In this context, and as one of the main challenges featuring the current international situation since the 18th NAM Summit held in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Heads of State and Government *underlined* their deep concern with the scope and seriousness of the remaining effects of the international financial and economic crisis affecting the world today and

its severe adverse impact on development, including the realization of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions and sustainable development, particularly for developing countries, as well as for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business, and therefore The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the need to work collectively in order to reform the international financial and monetary architecture and economic governance structures with a view to improving the functioning of the international economic system and mitigating the impacts of the crisis on development.

812. The Heads of State and Government stressed, in that regard, that the recovery from the financial and economic challenges caused by current multiple and interlinked crises is uncertain and uneven, and there is no guarantee that the relapse will not occur. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* that the systemic problems facing the global economy have to be resolved, including through the full accomplishment of the reform of the global financial system and architecture.

813. The Heads of State and Government expressed their deepest concern for the intensification of the Unilateral Coercive Measures, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and their rejection of the extraterritorial dimension of the blockade, which has severely and negatively impacted the international financial transactions of the affected countries and the well-being of their people.

814. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that the current complex international context imposes a series of challenges that cannot be addressed in isolation by any country, and that must be effectively addressed since they compromise the achievements made in terms of sustainable development, especially in developing countries, and that it is therefore urgent to prioritize sustainable development through the mobilization of new, additional and predictable financial resources, equitable access to technological advances and technology transfer, as well as capacity building and development.

815. The Heads of State and Government expressed *concern* at the volatility in currency exchange rates and its adverse impact on international trade, economic growth and development, and *emphasized* the importance of examining this problem including the possibility of evolving to a more stable international monetary system.

816. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* concern that the consequences of the financial and economic challenges caused by current multiple and interlinked crises are threatening the debt sustainability in a growing number of developing countries, inter alia, through its impact on the real economy and the increase in borrowing undertaken in order to mitigate the negative impacts of the crises, and in that regard called upon all Governments to promote and contribute to the discussions within the United Nations and other appropriate forums, including the IMF and the World Bank, on the need and feasibility of new sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms, including G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatment beyond DSSI, according to the needs of developing countries, that take into account the multiple dimensions of debt sustainability and their role in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

817. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* that sovereign debt restructuring has been a crucial issue for developing countries in past decades and recent years. The Heads of State and Government *noted* the concerns expressed regarding the so-called “vulture funds” and their actions of a highly speculative nature, which pose a risk to all future debt-restructuring processes for both developing and developed countries. The Heads of State and Government therefore, while affirming the importance of timely, orderly, effective and fair debt restructuring *stressed* the importance of preventing vulture funds from paralyzing the debt-restructuring efforts of developing countries.

818. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need for a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries and in this regard *called for* the continued formulation and implementation of initiatives, including addressing significant debt relief for all developing countries. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the related discussions at the United Nations by the General Assembly, the Financing for Development process and the Ad Hoc Committee on Sovereign Debt Restructuring and *took note* of the discussions at the IMF and the World Bank, within their respective mandates. They also recalled with appreciation and reiterated their support to General Assembly resolution 69/319 entitled “Basic Principles on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes” on 10 September 2015 as an important step, and *noted* its invitation to all Member and observer states, competent international organizations, entities and other relevant stakeholders to promote the Basic Principles.

819. The Heads of State and Government recognized the work carried out by International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat and the Paris Club on sovereign debt restructuring. They also *recognized* the roles of the United Nations and the international financial institutions in accordance with their respective mandates, and *encouraged* them to continue to support global efforts towards sustainable development and a durable solution to the problem of the debt of developing countries.

820. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the convening of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, held on 24-30 June 2009 in New York, the outcome of which was subsequently endorsed by General Assembly resolution 63/303 on 9 July 2009. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the progress report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic crisis and its Impact on Development and *expressed* their support for extending the mandate of the working group.

821. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the call of the UN Secretary-General for the reform of the global financial architecture and for an SDG stimulus of at least 500 billion dollars per year, to address both short-term crises and long-term sustainable development, and *urged* the international community to support it, as a coherent set of concrete measures to facilitate the scaling-up of financing for development to meet the 2030 Agenda.

822. The Heads of State and Government expressed *serious concern* about the substantial increase in the financial stability risks of many developed economies and, in particular, their high structural fragilities in financing sovereign debt created as a result of transferring private risk to the public sector. In this regard, we call *for* urgent and coherent solutions to reduce sovereign risk in developed economies in order to prevent contagion and to mitigate its impact on the international financial system and on developing countries. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the importance of the Third International Follow-up Conference on the Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development for 2015, in light of its negative impacts, particularly on the economies of developing countries which negatively affect the efforts of developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs. The Heads of State and Government look forward to the deliberations on the convening of a IV International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their concern over illicit financial flows and related thereto tax avoidance and evasion, corruption and money laundering, by using certain jurisdictions and practices, with negative impacts for the world economy and, in particular for developing countries. They emphasized the need to ensure all tax payers, including multinational companies, pay taxes to the governments of countries where economic activity occurs and value is created, in accordance with national and international laws and policies. They *maintained* that while there is increasing recognition of the importance of international cooperation on tax matters, there is still no single global inclusive forum for international tax cooperation at the intergovernmental level. There is also not enough focus on the development dimension of these issues. In this context, the Heads

of State and Government emphasized the importance of actions aimed at ensuring a fair and effective international tax cooperation system that takes into account the different needs, priorities and capacities of all countries and effectively responds to the specific concerns and needs of developing countries. They also *welcomed* the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolutions 77/244 & 78/230, and called upon all stakeholders to actively engage in the official processes launched by these resolutions.

823. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized further* that industrial development and policies to enhance productive capacities can generate employment and incomes for the poor and, therefore, be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving internationally agreed Development goals, including the SDGs.

824. The Heads of State and Government *encouraged* regional, sub-regional and interregional cooperation as a platform for international industrial cooperation aiming to promote investment and technology transfer, to disseminate good policies and practices as well as to foster job creation, including for youth and women, and in this regard, the efforts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to assist developing countries in their industrialization objectives must be supported.

825. The Heads of State and Government will work towards full and equal access to formal financial services for all. The Heads of State and Government will also work for the international system to ensure that the policy and regulatory environment supports financial market stability and promotes financial inclusion in a balanced manner and with appropriate consumer protection. The Heads of State and Government *encouraged*, as appropriate and in accordance with national laws and regulations, the use of innovative tools, including mobile banking, payment platforms and digitized payments. The Heads of State and Government *look forward* to strengthening financial literacy and capacity development for developing countries, including through the United Nations development system.

Unemployment

826. The Heads of State and Government expressed *their concern* over the serious jobs challenge and widespread deficits of decent work that the world faces, with particular impacts on youth. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* that according to “ILO World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2019”, an estimated 172 million people worldwide were unemployed in 2018, which corresponds to an unemployment rate of 5.0 per cent. The number of people unemployed is projected to increase by 1 million per year to reach 174 million by 2020, including also as a result of the expanding labour force. Also, the gender gap in labor force participation remains large. The much lower labor force participation rate of women, which stood at 48 per cent in 2018, compared with 75 per cent for men, means that around three in five of the 3.5 billion people in the global labor force in 2018 were men. The poor quality of many jobs also manifests itself in the fact that, in 2018, more than one quarter of workers in developing countries were living in extreme or moderate poverty and the number of workers living in extreme poverty is expected to remain stubbornly above 114 million for the coming years. In this regard, they *expressed deep concern* about the increase in inequalities and the insufficient employment opportunities, including quality positions, to maintain the rhythm of a growing labor force, bearing in mind the fundamental importance of equality of opportunities, education and professional development in the context of the effective right of young people to work, underscoring that the full, decent and productive employment of young people plays an important role in its empowerment, and it could contribute, among other things, to prevent extremism, terrorism and social, economic, and political instability. Similarly, they *urged* UN Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the designation of 15th July as the World Youth Skills Day, by the General Assembly, as a means to strengthen young people’s access to decent work and labor markets.

827. The Heads of State and Government recognized the urgent need to create conditions for decent work for all, protect labour rights of all workers and achieve universal social protection, including by strengthening social protection systems. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the crucial role of micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in contributing to Sustainable Development Goal implementation through job creation and improving livelihoods for the poorest and most vulnerable, and promote support measures to engage micro-, small and medium sized enterprises in recovery efforts.

828. The Heads of State and Government took *note* with appreciation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and encourage member states to consider supporting its implementation.

829. The Heads of State and Government recognized the need to attract quality investments in raw materials value addition and industrialization and seize the opportunity that abundant natural resources in most NAM member states represent to create employment and decent livelihoods for the well-being and prosperity of their peoples in the context of just transitions.

Africa

830. The Heads of State and Government *called on* the international community to implement its commitment to address the special needs of Africa, and its resolve to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership for Africa's Development by providing coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders within that framework, including by mobilizing internal and external financial resources and facilitating approval of such programmes by the multilateral financial institutions; to support the African commitment to ensure that all children have access to complete, free and compulsory, good quality primary education, as well as to basic health care; to support the building of an international infrastructure consortium involving the African Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, with the New Partnership for Africa's Development as the main framework, to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in Africa.

831. The Heads of State and Government called *for* continued support for Africa's development initiatives, including the continental strategic vision framework for socio-economic development, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Program for Infrastructure Development for Africa (PIDA).

832. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the progress made by African countries in fulfilling of their commitments to the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encouraged African countries, the participation of stakeholders, including civil society, academia, and the private sector, to continue their efforts towards implementing the 2030 Agenda.

833. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the admission of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20 at the Summit held in New Delhi, under the Indian Presidency. This membership shall add to African efforts to advocate for a more inclusive and equitable global economic order.

834. The Heads of State and Government *expressed their concern* over the development and scope of the current financial and economic crisis on Africa which continues to slow down economic growth, worsen balance of payment situation and turn around the efforts to achieve the SDGs, and in this regard, recalled with appreciation the Addis Ababa Declarations on the International Financial Crisis adopted at the 12th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly of the African Union Ministers on 3 February 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

835. In this context, The Heads of State and Government supported and *encouraged* national and regional initiatives in the field of human development, such as the first African Conference

on Human Development which was held in Rabat, Morocco, in April 2007. This Conference aimed at combating poverty and vulnerability and enhancing the social and living standards of the most disadvantaged African Nations within the context of achieving the SDGs.

836. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the progress made towards ensuring the free movement of persons as well as goods and services in Africa, and welcomed the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on 30 May 2019, and the ongoing efforts to fully operationalize the Agreement, including the actual commencement of trading on 1 January 2021 aimed at doubling intra-African trade to strengthen Africa's resilience, COVID-19 recovery and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. They praised the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria for its decision to allocate 1 billion dollars to fund development project in Africa through Algeria's Agency for Foreign Cooperation and Development.

837. The Heads of State and Government further *called for* a comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, including, *inter alia*, cancellation or restructuring for heavily indebted African countries not part of the current debt initiatives that have unsustainable debt burdens; to make efforts to fully integrate African countries in the international trading system, including through targeted trade capacity-building programmes; to support the efforts of commodity-dependent African countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors and decide to work towards market-based arrangements with the participation of the private sector for commodity price-risk management; to supplement the efforts of African countries, individually and collectively, to increase agricultural productivity, in a sustainable way, as set out in the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as part of an African "Green Revolution"; as recommended by African Ministers at the High Level Meeting on "African Agriculture in the 21st Century: Meeting the Challenges, Making a sustainable Green Revolution", held in Windhoek from 9 to 10 February 2009.

838. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the political declaration on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward", adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 22 September 2008. They *stressed* their commitment to provide and strengthen support to the special needs of Africa and stress that eradicating poverty, particularly in Africa, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. They *underlined* the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based economic growth, which is pivotal to bringing Africa into the mainstream of the global economy. They *recalled* the commitment of all States to establish a monitoring mechanism to follow up on all commitments related to the development of Africa as contained in the political declaration on "Africa's development needs" and *stressed* that all commitments to and by Africa should be effectively implemented and given appropriate follow-up by the international community and Africa itself. They *underscored* the urgency of addressing the special needs of Africa based on a partnership among equals.

839. The Heads of State and Government recognized that special attention should be given to Africa, especially that it is the most continent lagging behind in achieving the SDGs. Despite progress made by some African countries, the situation in others remains a grave concern. The Heads of State and Government *called for* the full and timely implementation of all commitments made to enable African countries to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

840. The Heads of State and Government stressed that the special development needs of Africa should be at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reaffirmed in this context the political declaration on "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward", adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on 22 September 2008.

841. The Heads of State and Government called *for* the full implementation as a matter of urgency of the "Political Declaration on Africa's Development needs" adopted by GA resolution 63/1 of 22

September 2008, as reaffirmed by the Doha Declaration on financing for development, and of all commitments made to Africa by the international community. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* concern that the pledge made by the G8 at Gleneagles to double the Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards Africa from US \$25 billion to US \$50 billion by 2010 was not reached.

842. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that Official Development Assistance remains the main source of international financing for development for many developing countries and that it is essential as a catalyst for development, facilitating the achievement of national development objectives, including the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development goals and the 2030 Agenda in accordance with paragraph 246 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("The future we want").

843. The Heads of State and Government recognized that the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development along with the Africa Agenda 2063 play a pivotal role for industrialization and mainly the necessity to obtain the required financial resources to achieve it. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the discussion during the 3rd International Conference on financing for development that took place, between the 13 and 16 July 2015, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and which led to the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

844. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need to strengthen cooperation with African countries through North-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and South-South Cooperation, especially in agriculture, education, health and environment as well as the exchange of experiences and know-how in all these sectors.

845. The Heads of State and Government expressed support for the efforts made by the Arab Republic of Egypt, as Chair of the Steering Committee of the NEPAD (2023-2025), and the Secretariat of the NEPAD, that contributed to the success of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan FTYIP of Agenda 2063, and the launching of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan STYIP of Agenda 2063.

846. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the adoption of "Marrakech Consensus on Innovative Financing for Africa's Transformation", by the Ninth ECA African Development Forum (ADF-IX), held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 12 to 16 October 2014, which calls for greater partnership between the private and public sector to accelerate Africa's transformation.

847. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the adoption of the Declaration of the first Africa Action Summit for Continental Co-Emergence, held in Marrakech in 16 November 2016, and *expressed* their support to the approved set of practical measures aiming at consolidating African respective commitments and Initiatives to tackle the effects of climate change and as a significant contribution to a comprehensive and coordinated response to this serious challenge.

848. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the recent steps undertaken by the African Countries to achieve the full Integration of NEPAD into the Structures and Processes of the African Union on the basis of the 13-points conclusion of Algiers, Algeria, NEPAD Ministers Implementing Committee (HSGIC), Brainstorming Summit, of March 2007, and the outcomes of the Dakar, Senegal, NEPAD Review Summit of April 2008. In this context, they welcomed the establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency) as a technical body of the AU to replace the NEPAD Secretariat.

849. The Heads of State and Government noted the Algiers Declaration for Startup Development adopted at the African Start up conference held in Algiers, Algeria on 5th – 6th December 2023.

850. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the UN General Assembly resolution 70/293 proclaiming the period 2016-2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade

for Africa calling by that for this decade to place the African continent irrevocably on the path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

851. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation for the organization on 21 September 2017, in New York, in the margin of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, the high level event, titled “The Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa: From political commitment to actions on the ground”. This event was attended by high-level participants from the Continent aimed to reaffirm the commitment of the international community to enhance global partnership to industrialize Africa in a socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable manner.

852. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration of the 52nd session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Marrakech (Morocco) on 25 and 26 March 2019, and also welcomed the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration of the 55th session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in a hybrid format, on 20-21 March 2023.

853. The Heads of State and Government *noted* the Marrakech Declaration adopted by African countries at the High-Level Ministerial Meeting on accelerating the financing of Africa's emergence, held on 12 October 2023, on the sidelines of the WB-IMF Annual Meetings in Morocco, which called for a global financial architecture that is equitable and conducive to Africa's development.

Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States

854. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the special needs of the Least Developed Countries(LDCs),the Small Island Developing States (SIDS),and the Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) within a new global frame work for transit transport cooperation for land locked and transit developing countries, and reaffirmed the need for continued support and assistance for their endeavours, particularly in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2022-2031 adopted at the fifth United Nations LDCs Conference held in New York and the Vienna Programme of Action for LLDC for the Decade 2014-2024 adopted at the second United Nations Conference on LLDC held in Vienna.

855. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the “Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)” adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014, which represents the international community's renewed political commitment to the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States. The Heads of State and Government further recalled that the SAMOA Pathway also set out new modalities for strengthened action on a range of challenges and priorities concerning Small Island Developing States and demonstrated how partnerships with different stakeholders could be nurtured and utilized as one of the important means to implement the outcome document and build resilience to the particular challenges faced by SIDS. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation, the General Assembly Resolution 70/202 establishing the SIDS Partnership Framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges through partnerships for SIDS, as well as to encourage genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS, in accordance with paragraph 101 of the SAMOA Pathway.

856. The Heads of State and Government expressed profound appreciation to the Government of the State of Qatar for hosting the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries from 5-9 March 2023, and *welcomed* the outcome of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, especially the Doha Political Declaration

and the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) 2022-2031, and called for scaled up partnership for development. In this regard, they *called for* effective arrangements for implementation, follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the commitments made under the Doha Programme of Action. They *encouraged* UNCTAD to continue its work in ensuring that the economic fundamentals of LDCs are adequately addressed, particularly so that they can harness the developmental benefits of participating in the global economic system, including world trade.

857. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the unique social and economic development challenges of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and *noted with serious concern* that SIDS continue to be denied access to concessional finance from international financial institutions based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita criterion established several decades ago. The SIDS thus have serious difficulties in mobilizing financial resources to undertake much-needed infrastructure development projects which require sustainable financing. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* the international financial institutions and the UN to address this issue expeditiously including undertaking an urgent review of the GDP per Capita criterion which prevents SIDS from access to concessional finance to fund development projects.

858. The Heads of State and Government called *upon* developed countries to fully implement the commitments made in the Doha Programme of Action in its six priority areas.

859. The Heads of State and Government also *recalled* the results of the first Summit Meeting of LLDCs on 14 September 2006 in Havana and emphasized the need for greater cooperation of the international community towards the full implementation of the declaration of the Ministers of Land-locked Developing Countries.

860. The Heads of State and Government highly *appreciated* UNIDO's initiative in organizing the 7th LDC Ministerial Conference, held in Vienna, Austria, on the 23-24 November 2017. The Conference was held in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Decade for Africa, and aimed at supporting the international efforts to help fostering the graduation of the LDCs.

861. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the importance of the mobilization of adequate financial resources and underlined the critical need for addressing expeditiously the renewed and structural challenges, notably eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The NAM Heads of State and Government also stressed the importance of the support of the international community to contribute towards the achievement of the targets for the LDCs.

862. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their full support and cooperation to the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS), which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001 through its resolution 56/227 with functions recommended by the Secretary-General in paragraph 17 of his report A/56/645.

863. The Heads of State and Government *encouraged* United Nations system and organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the Regional Commissions and relevant international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to provide necessary support to Landlocked Developing Countries and actively contribute to the preparatory process of the Third UN Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries, which will be held in Kigali, Rwanda from 18-21 June 2024.

864. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the Africa regional mid-term review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in March 2019 and the high level Africa regional review of the Vienna

Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for Decade 2014-2024, held from 29 to 30 May 2023 in Gaborone, Botswana.

865. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the special needs of and challenges faced by the Landlocked Developing Countries caused by their lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by the remoteness from world markets and also the concern that the economic growth and social well-being of land-locked developing countries remain very vulnerable to external shocks as well as the multiple challenges the international community faces including the financial and economic crisis and climate changes.

866. The Heads of State and Government stressed *the need* for the international community to enhance development assistance to Landlocked Developing Countries to help them overcome their vulnerabilities, build resilience and set themselves on a path of sustainable social and economic development. They also *stress* the urgent need to address the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked and transit developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the decade 2014-2024, as contained in the Declaration of the 2nd United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

867. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* concern that the economic growth and social well-being of Landlocked Developing Countries remain highly vulnerable to external shocks and to the multiple challenges the international community faces, and invites the international community to assist Landlocked Developing Countries in strengthening their resilience and protecting the advances made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the decade 2014-2024.

868. The Heads of State and Government *encouraged* the relevant international organizations, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the United Nations regional commissions, as well as relevant research institutions and other international organizations, to assist the Landlocked Developing Countries in undertaking research on the vulnerability of Landlocked Developing Countries to external shocks.

869. The Heads of State and Government *noted* the entry into force of the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in October 2017, and underscored the important role of the International Think Tank to support the development efforts of Landlocked Developing Countries and, in this regard, urged those Landlocked Developing Countries that have not yet done so to ratify the Agreement at their earliest convenience, and called upon all relevant stakeholders to support the work of the International Think Tank.

870. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the progress made since the establishment of the international think tank for the Landlocked Developing Countries in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) to enhance analytical capability within Landlocked Developing Countries and to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices needed to maximize their coordinated efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.

871. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need to continue to pay special attention to the situation of developing countries emerging from conflict, in particular LDCs, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, their political, social and economic infrastructures and to assist them in achieving their development objectives.

872. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the global efforts to alleviate the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, and commended in this regard, Global Calls for Action declared by the President of Azerbaijan during the Summit Level

Meeting of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 held in Baku, Azerbaijan on March 2, 2023 to support the post-pandemic recovery of African countries and Small Island Developing States. The Heads of State and Government welcomed Azerbaijan's contribution of 1 million USD towards each of the Global Calls, and called upon the international community to support the Calls by providing necessary funding.

873. The Heads of State and Government applauded continuous contribution of Azerbaijan through its International Development Agency (AIDA) to the "Campaign to Fight Avoidable Blindness" successfully conducted with the initiative of Islamic Development Bank in thirteen (13) NAM countries since 2012.

874. The Heads of State and Government recalled the success of Educational Grant Programs for the citizens of NAM countries implemented by the Government of Azerbaijan between 2018-2022 and commended the willingness of the Government to provide full educational scholarships to the citizens of NAM countries in 2024-2029 through the Heydar Aliyev International Scholarship Program.

Middle Income Countries

875. The Heads of State and Government recognized the important role that Middle-Income Countries play in the promotion of global economic growth and development. However, they still face significant development challenges, especially in the areas of poverty eradication and inequalities, the adverse impact of climate change, and in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, especially the SDGs. They also *confront* the challenge of making the transition from resource driven growth to productivity driven growth. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the need for enhanced support by the United Nations System, the international financial institutions and all other stakeholders, for their development efforts through an appropriate framework for development cooperation with Middle Income Countries, in order to address those challenges, including by working in competent multilateral and international fora and also through bilateral arrangements on measures to enhance international cooperation with MICs and help them meet, inter alia, their socio-economic development and financial technical and technological development requirements.

876. The Heads of State and Government recognized that middle-income countries still face significant development challenges and underlined that despite the recent progress achieved and the efforts made by middle-income countries, 73% of the world's poor population lives in those countries. Cooperation aimed at those countries can have a multiplying effect by contributing significantly to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the achievement of full employment and the creation of jobs for the youth, the diversification of their economies, and the development of technologies continue to be huge challenges for middle-income countries.

877. The Heads of State and Government underlined that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will remain out of reach if middle-income countries are left behind and therefore unable to achieve the full spectrum of the Sustainable Development Goals.

878. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged that statistical averages based only on criteria such as per capita income do not reflect the actual particularities and development needs of middle-income countries, and recognizes that this type of classification fails to recognize the diversity among and with middle-income countries and disregards the multidimensional nature of development and poverty.

879. The Heads of State and Government recognized the need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government *committed* to continue promoting the use of criteria that rely on multidimensional indicators beyond Gross Domestic Product per capita, in order to adequately measure the

progress of the countries of the movement in promoting sustainable development in its three dimensions.

880. The Heads of State and Government stressed the urgent need to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that go beyond GDP, that more adequately reflect the vulnerabilities, structural gaps and multidimensional challenges faced by developing countries, in order to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation, and to better inform access to concessional finance, technical cooperation and technology transfer. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed in this regard, the call to engage in intergovernmental discussions in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, multilateral development banks and regional economic commissions. They took note of the work of the UN High-level Committee on Programs Core Group on Beyond GDP for metrics that go beyond GDP, and recognized that timely and inclusive participation of Member States is needed to move the beyond GDP agenda forward, as well as the need to launch a high-level process to discuss the rationale and outline a process to go beyond GDP.

881. The Heads of State and Government noted *with concern* that access to concessional finance is reduced as countries' incomes grow. Middle-income countries may not be able to access sufficient affordable financing from other sources to meet their development needs. They *encouraged* multilateral development banks and other stakeholders to develop graduation policies that are sequenced, phased and gradual and to explore ways to ensure that their assistance best addresses the opportunities and challenges presented by the diverse circumstances of middle-income countries.

882. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need for global debt architecture to be fit-for-purpose to promote inclusive growth and avoid reversed hard-won sustainable development gains, through establishing comprehensive and efficient debt mechanisms to manage debt distress in both low- income and middle-income countries in a sustainable, predictable and timely manner.

883. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* the international community, including international financial institutions, to continue to improve support for the development efforts of middle-income countries through targeted technical cooperation, the provision of resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, while taking into account their national priorities and development policies.

884. The Heads of State and Government encouraged all United Nations entities, funds and programmes to further develop specific strategies to engage and provide tailored support to middle-income countries, including leveraging and mobilizing finance for sustainable development.

885. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged that official development assistance is still essential for a number of middle-income countries and that it has a role to play in targeted areas, taking into account the needs and domestic resources of these countries.

886. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of UN General Assembly resolutions 68/222, 70/215, 72/230, 74/231, 76/215 and 78/162 on "Development Cooperation with Middle Income Countries". The Heads of State and Government once again emphasized the need for the United Nations to conduct a comprehensive review of existing practices of the international cooperation system, including the UN Funds, programmes and agencies, the international financial institutions and other international organizations, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, on their development cooperation with middle income countries, with a view to achieving more effective development cooperation and fostering international support for the development of these countries.

887. The Heads of State and Government *called* for advancing the elaboration of a specific inter-agency, comprehensive, system-wide response plan, taking note of the mapping exercise

conducted by' the Secretary-General and his recommendations, aimed at better addressing the multidimensional nature of sustainable development and facilitating sustainable development cooperation and coordinated and inclusive support to middle-income countries based on their specific challenges and diverse needs.

888. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the high-level meetings of the UN General Assembly held on 17 June and 2 July 2021 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/231 to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and on 11 May 2023 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/215, under the theme “Accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in middle-income countries, with a focus on the environmental dimension.

889. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the international Conferences on Development Cooperation with Middle Income Countries held in March 2007 in Madrid, Spain, in October 2007 in San Salvador, El Salvador, in August 2008 in Windhoek, Namibia, in June 2013 in San Jose, Costa Rica, as well as the regional conferences on “increasing the competitiveness of African Middle Income countries” held in Cairo, Egypt, in March 2008 and “The Middle-Income Countries’ Perspective on Sustainable Development in CIS, Eastern and Southern Europe”, held in Minsk, Belarus, in May 2013 and “Fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development in middle-income countries in Europe and Central Asia through innovation and technological learning: needs, potentials and best practices” held in Minsk, Belarus, in April 2015.

890. The Heads of State and Government noted the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Middle Income Countries to be organized by the Kingdom of Morocco, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on 5th to 6th February 2024 in Rabat, Morocco under the theme: "Solutions to address development challenges of Middle-income Countries in a changing world".

Low Income Developing Countries

891. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that low-income developing countries could also play an important role in the promotion of world economic growth, although they face important development challenges and special needs in the sphere of trade facilitation and the promotion of direct foreign investment flow, resist the adverse impacts of climate change and the eradication of poverty and require the urgent attention of the international community. In this regard, they stressed the need for the United Nations system to enhance its support to Low Income Developing Countries.

Trade

892. The Heads of State and Government underlined that trade is an engine for inclusive growth and poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development and they *committed* to overcome development challenges and inequalities between and within countries. In this regard they *recommitted* to promoting a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system with special and differential treatment as well as meaningful trade liberalization. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* the importance of facilitating the accession of all developing countries, in particular countries with the observer status who have been for long period of time waiting for their full membership to World Trade Organization (WTO), recognizing the contribution that it would make to the rapid and full integration of those countries into the multilateral trading system. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* that the accession process to WTO should be free from political impediments and in an expeditious and transparent manner for developing countries, in particular the LDCs, as well as countries with economies in transition, consistent with objective, clear and transparent criteria with full observance of the principle of special and differential treatment for Developing countries, in particular LDCs and taking into account their development

level, bearing in mind paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 55/182 and subsequent developments, and called for the effective and faithful application of the WTO guidelines on accession by developing countries, particularly the LDCs.

893. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* serious concern over the adverse impacts of the consequences of the world financial and economic crisis on global trade through, inter alia, rising protectionism including in the guise of environmental measures, in particular, in developed countries which negatively affects exports of developing countries. They also *reaffirmed* the central importance of the development dimensions in trade negotiations and they *maintained* that a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round launched in 2001 can only be achieved if the outcomes thereof, significantly address the imbalances and inequities in the multilateral trading system, in which the interests of developing countries could be reflected, as well as the need to fulfill of previous commitments.

894. The Heads of State and Government called on the European Union (EU) to adopt a more flexible approach in their Free Trade Agreement negotiations, including the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) negotiations with the concerned African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries and provide the requisite support to finance adjustment costs and build supply capacity to be able to take advantage of the EPA.

895. The Heads of State and Government also *reiterated* the importance of fully responding to the concerns raised by developing countries in paragraph 8 of the Doha Plan of Action, in particular, regarding the realization of all areas of the Doha Work Programme, especially in Agriculture, Non-Agriculture Market Access, Services, Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Rules as well as operational and meaningful special and differential treatment for developing countries. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* the importance of agriculture, as agriculture is the primary sector for ensuring food security and nutrition along with the development of many developing countries, in particular LDCs. They also called for action to accelerate the work on the development related mandate concerning the TRIPS Agreement and the implementation related issues in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, especially on the issues of making intellectual property rules of TRIPS supportive of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as trade-related aspects of the TRIPS and Public Health. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the importance of a strong multilateral trading system that prioritizes the structural transformation of the LDCs through economic diversification and addressing institutional and capacity constraints to strengthen their resilience to various socioeconomic, health and environmental shocks and in safeguarding trade expansion that serves as a source of economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development and poverty eradication.

896. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* that the substantial increase of non-tariff measures such as technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, private standards, discriminatory measures on non-commercial grounds including those sought to be justified as environmental measures and the use of agricultural subsidies by developed countries impedes the promotion of agricultural production and exports in developing countries and urged the developed countries to reduce them with a view to eliminate subsidies, non-tariff measures and other market-distorting measures.

897. The Heads of State and Government *invited* donors and beneficiary countries to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on the Aid for Trade Initiative established by the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, which aims to support developing countries, including LDCs, in building their supply and export capacities, including development of infrastructure and institutions, and the need to increase their exports, and stressed in this regard the urgent need for its effective operationalization with sufficient additional, non-conditional and predictable funding.

898. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the importance of the WTO reform to enhance the rule-based multilateral trading system, while preserving the WTO fundamental rules

and principles, including the special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries. They also reiterated that the reform process should be member-driven, inclusive and transparent.

899. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* the importance of international trade and trade facilitation as one of the priorities of the Vienna Programme of action for the Landlocked Developing Countries for the decade 2014-2024, and noted that the Trade Facilitation Agreement of WTO is particularly important for Landlocked Developing Countries to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs, and called upon the international community to ensure that the agreement on trade facilitation in the final outcome of the Doha Round fulfills the objective of lowering transaction costs by, inter alia, reducing transport time and enhancing certainty in transborder trade. The Heads of State and Government further urged developed countries to honor their commitments related to technical assistance and capacity building to enable developing countries to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

900. The Heads of State and Government *underscored* the important role of UNCTAD as the focal point within the UN system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development and it should conduct research into an analysis of macroeconomic policies, trade, investment, finance, debt, poverty, international migration and emerging issues, and their interdependence, as referred to in the Accra Accord adopted in the 12th Conference of UNCTAD, the Doha Mandate adopted in its 13th Conference, the Nairobi Maafikiano adopted at its 14th Conference, and the Bridgetown Covenant adopted at its 15th Conference, which calls for among others, the promotion of an inclusive and resilient economic recovery in developing countries, as they grapple with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the debt crisis, the climate emergency and other unprecedented challenges. Such research should be used to help developing countries to meet their development goals including poverty eradication and economic growth to improve the welfare of their citizens and to address the opportunities and challenges created by globalization. They further reiterated the need to continue the operationalization of UNCTAD's relevant functions in the areas of globalization, policy space and corporate responsibility and the reinvigoration of its intergovernmental machinery, taking into consideration the Bridgetown Covenant and the Spirit of Speightstown adopted at the 15th Session of UNCTAD (Barbados, 03-07 October 2021).

901. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the UNCTAD-UNDP Creative Economy Report 2010 and the UNCTAD 2022 Creative Economic Outlook that provides empirical evidence, in-depth analysis and new insights showing that the creative industries, linking economic, cultural, technological and social aspects of development at both the macro and micro levels, are among the most dynamic emerging sectors in world trade that could offer to developing countries new opportunities in the world economy. The Heads of State and Government therefore encouraged UNCTAD to develop a technical assistance programme in creative economy in order to enhance and strengthen developing countries capacity to compete in these sectors. The Heads of State and Government further encouraged UNCTAD to fulfil its mandates and assist governments on issues related to the development dimension of the creative economy, in line with the three pillars of UNCTAD's work by assisting developing countries, including LDCs to enhance their creative economies for trade and development, in accordance with national plans and priorities.

902. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the hosting of the First World Conference on Creative Economy in Bali, Indonesia, on 6-8 November 2018 and took note of its outcome document, the Bali Agenda for Creative Economy. They recognized the important role of creative economy as a driver for inclusive and sustainable development growth that may assist developing countries in achieving SDGs and, in this regard, reaffirmed the importance to create enabling environment for the promotion of creative economy, among others by encouraging creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting the development of cultural institutions and

cultural industries, providing technical and vocational training for culture professionals and increasing employment opportunities in the cultural and creative sector.

903. The Heads of State and Government *agreed* to work towards the full implementation of the recommendations of the XV session of UNCTAD quadrennial conference, held in hybrid format (virtual and physical) from 3 to 7 October 2021, in Bridgetown and Geneva, including the Bridgetown Covenant to promote inclusive and resilient economic recovery in developing countries as they grapple with unequal access to COVID-19 vaccines, a debt crisis, the climate emergency and other unprecedented challenges, and UNCTAD XV's political declaration, the Spirit of Speightstown.

904. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPs Agreement at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) held in Geneva from 12-17 June 2022 which confirms the right of LDCs, to override the exclusive effect of patents and provide greater scope to take direct action to diversify production of COVID-19 vaccines over the next five years through clarifications of existing flexibilities and a targeted waiver. The Heads of State and Government supported the effective implementation of the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPs Agreement and emphasized the need to urgently decide on the extension of the Decision to therapeutics and diagnostics, as mandated by the Decision.

905. The Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of NAM countries to support and ensure that the 45 Development Agenda Recommendations, which were agreed by the World Intellectual Property Organization General Assembly in 2008, are fully implemented. The implementation of such recommendation is important to find balance between the IPRs and the development of developing countries.

906. The Heads of State and Government committed to support and promote mechanisms aimed at enhancing intra/interregional trade, investment and cooperation among developing countries, promoting policy coherence in the countries of the South.

907. The Heads of State and Government recognized that South-South cooperation is increasingly critical to bolstering the productive capacities of developing countries and has positive impacts on trade and financial flows, technological capabilities and economic growth.

908. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, The Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures:

908.1 Continue the coordination and cooperation between the G-77 and China and NAM, within their respective mandates, to strengthen the role of UNCTAD as the UN body in charge of an integrated treatment of trade, development and related matters in the field of finances, technology, investment and sustainable development.

908.2 Continue promoting the rejection of and the adoption of concrete actions against the enforcement of unilateral coercive economic measures at the several multilateral fora where NAM and G-77 and China are involved.

909. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* deep concern at the imposition of laws and other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions, against developing countries, imposed by a specific country or a group for political and economic purposes, which violate the Charter of the United Nations, rules and principles of international law and the rules of the World Trade Organization and also severely threaten freedom of trade and investment, and constitute an interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The Heads of State and Government *urged* the ending of such coercive measures.

910. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the role of transport in sustainable development and the challenges in global efforts to achieve the transition to sustainable mobility

of freight and people using inland modes of transport, and are committed to transformative action that will accelerate the transition to sustainable transport at the global, regional and local level and for promoting the needs for enhancing digital data sharing subject to domestic legal frameworks along trade routes using various modes of transport.

South-South Cooperation

911. Recognizing the increasing importance of South-South Cooperation and the changing context of North-South interdependence and terms of engagement, The Heads of State and Government called *for* a more energetic effort to deepen and enhance South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that such cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation.

912. The Heads of State and Government of NAM *welcomed* the commemoration in 2024 of the 60th anniversary of the Group of 77 as well as the convening of the Third South Summit of the Group of 77 from 21 to 22 January 2024 preceded by the XIX NAM Summit from 15 to 20 January 2024, to be held both in Kampala, Uganda – which represents another occasion for further strengthening South-South Cooperation within the context of the Joint Coordinating Committee between the Group of 77 and NAM. In this regard, Member States were called upon to be represented at the highest level possible.

913. The Heads of State and Government agreed that NAM will consult with the G77 and China on new initiatives and proposals for further strengthening and developing South-South cooperation under the current international situation, in the forthcoming 3rd South Summit to be held in Uganda. They also agreed to make sure that the NAM would work with the Group of 77 and China on a concrete plan for materializing the establishment of a UN Specialized Agency for South-South cooperation, to be located in a developing country.

914. The Heads of State and Government *conveyed* their appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and welcomed the outcome document of the Conference, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the 1978 United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which has also been adopted by the General Assembly resolution 73/291. The theme of the Conference, “Role of South-South cooperation and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: challenges and opportunities”, was an opportunity to enhance the current institutional arrangements to effectively support South-South cooperation and promote South-South agenda. They *look forward* to the full implementation of the outcome, which recognized that South-South and triangular cooperation contribute to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which balance the three dimensions: economic, social and environmental, that will further concretize and strengthened the solidarity among developing countries.

915. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitments to fully implement the Havana Programme of Action, the Marrakech Plan of Implementation of South-South cooperation and the Doha Plan of Action that taken together represent a comprehensive framework for intensified cooperation among developing countries.

916. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that South-South and triangular cooperation has the potential to enhance capacity-building, strengthen human resources and leverage the catalytic role of education and human development in the creation of employment opportunities and encouraged developed and developing countries to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation in the field of education, particularly in the area of science technology,

innovation and technical and vocational education to enhance developing countries' capacities to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and produce more high-value goods and services.

917. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* further that poverty reduction policies and strategies, in conformity with national conditions and circumstances, have enabled some developing countries to lift millions of their citizens out of extreme poverty and they invited all relevant stakeholders to share their knowledge and experience, particularly homegrown development approaches, in order to intensify efforts towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions through South-South and triangular cooperation.

918. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their support to the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation held from 1 to 3 December 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya, which was endorsed by General Assembly resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, and look forward to its full and effective implementation.

919. The Heads of State and Government *requested* the United Nations system to enhance its support in the areas where South-South cooperation has proved effective, *inter alia*, capacity-building, regional integration, interregional linkages, infrastructure interconnectivity and the development of national productive capacities through exchanges of knowledge, technological innovations and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and in several areas of sustainable development such as poverty eradication and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

920. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the current institutional mechanisms for South-South Cooperation and expressed their support for the principles on which South-South Cooperation is based, which were adopted by the G77 and China in its different Summits and Conferences.

921. The Heads of State and Government recalled the decision of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (HLC) in 2012 to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), hosted by the UNDP, as a separate entity and coordinator for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis. In this context, they *recommended* the development of collaborative arrangements between the funds and programs and the Office of South-South Cooperation, including with a clear division of tasks and roles, as well as clear lines of reporting and accountability.

922. The Heads of State and Government further *recommended* that the UNOSSC be enabled to participate in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in keeping with its status as a separate entity within the UN for global coordination and promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation for development on United Nations system-wide basis in accordance with UN General Assembly resolutions. In this context, they also took note with appreciation of the UNOSSC Strategic Framework for 2018-2021, which was prepared in accordance with its General Assembly's mandate, consistent with the principles, priorities and objectives set by Member States in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Nairobi Outcome Document and other relevant General Assembly resolutions and South Summits' outcomes, taking into consideration the outcome of the review of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the United Nations system and the Secretary-General's response (A/66/717 and A/66/717/Add.1), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Secretary-General's operational guidelines on UN support to South-South cooperation, and other UN entities' strategic plans.

923. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their position that South-South Cooperation is a collective endeavor among peoples and countries of the South based on the principles of solidarity and on the premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historic and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and as such South-South cooperation deserves its own

separate and independent promotion as reaffirmed in the Nairobi and Buenos Aires outcome documents and the Development Platform for the South of the G77 and also that South-South Cooperation is a complement and not a substitute for North-South Cooperation.

924. The Heads of State and Government stressed that the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation is the central multilateral policy-making body in the UN system to review and assess global and system-wide progress on and support for South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, and to provide overall guidance on future directions. In this regard, this policy making body could be complemented by other relevant South-South cooperation initiatives and dialogue platforms.

925. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the role of South-South cooperation in the overall context of multilateralism, as a continuing process vital to confront the challenges faced by the South and as valuable contribution to development, and the need to further strengthen it, including through enhancing the capacities of the institutions and the arrangements that promote such cooperation.

926. In this context, The Heads of State and Government recalled the holding of the Third Africa-South America Summit in February 2013 in Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea which reaffirmed the commitment made in the second and first African South American Conference held in Marrakech, Morocco, to foster South-South Cooperation as a major objective of both regions.

927. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the importance of further strengthening coordination and cooperation at the regional, sub-regional, interregional and bilateral levels, particularly in the context of the negative impact of the current financial and economic crisis.

928. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the strengthening of partnership between the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation for the benefit of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and took note, in particular, of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties on 25 September 2018 in New York, as well as the launch of the Network of Francophone Actors for South-South and Tripartite Cooperation in July 2018, in Rabat. They also took note of Tunisia's hosting of the 18th Francophonie Summit, in the island of Djerba, on 19-20 November 2023, under the theme: "Connectivity in Diversity: The Digital, Vector of Development and Solidarity in the French-speaking World", marking the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the International Organisation of la Francophonie (OIF).

929. The Heads of State and Government evoked the successful conclusion of the third round of the Global System of Trade preferences by the adoption on the 15th of December 2010 of the Sao Paulo Protocol, and invited all the parties involved to ratify its agreement as soon as possible, and encouraged other developing countries to consider acceding to the GSTP and its protocols.

930. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the decisions adopted by the General Assembly in its sixty-sixth session to rename the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries as the "Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation"; as well as to change, as of 2012, the observance of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation from 19 December to 12 September, to mark the day in 1978 when the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

931. The Heads of State and Government reiterated General Assembly resolution 60/212 in which it designated the UN Fund for South-South Cooperation managed by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, "as the main United Nations trust fund for promoting and supporting South-South and triangular cooperation." To this end, they also *supported* efforts to upgrade the UN Fund for SSC into a fully functioning voluntary trust fund, and expand the core resources of

the G-77 Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and South Summit decisions.

932. The Heads of State and Government noted with satisfaction the signing, on November 28, 2013, of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNITAR and G77 and China (Chapter Geneva) on training and capacity building for representatives of member countries of the G77 and China. They *welcomed* the substantial financial support granted by the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in creating a fund within UNITAR dedicated to scholarships for training to representatives of countries of G77 and China.

933. The Heads of State and Government noted with satisfaction the signing on 06 September 2017 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ibero-American Program for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to establish a cooperation framework between both agencies to promote South and Triangular cooperation in areas of common interest.

934. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to further reinforce the following measures, among others:

934.1 Strengthen national capacities in order to enhance the individual and collective resilience of Non-Aligned Countries, which could be achieved particularly through expanding, deepening and enriching South-South cooperation in all areas of relations among them, including through undertaking concrete projects and programmes, pooling of resources, and tapping the contributions of eminent personalities and institutions of the South. In this regard, the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance established by the Second South Summit of the Group of 77 and China could greatly contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of South-South cooperation;

934.2 Encourage Member States to elaborate South-South cooperation arrangements, including sectoral cooperation arrangements, and other partnerships that promote South-South cooperation;

934.3 The Heads of State and Government reiterated, as laid out in the Nairobi and Buenos Aires Outcome documents, that South-South Cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership, and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. They also *requested* the United Nations development system to enhance its support in implementing projects of South-South cooperation, *inter alia*, in the areas of capacity-building, regional integration, infrastructure interconnectivity and the development of national productive capacities through exchanges of knowledge, experiences, good practices, technological innovations and technology transfer;

934.4 Promote on a voluntary basis trade and investment agreements among developing countries as a tool for strengthening South-South economic cooperation;

934.5 Promote and strengthen regional and sub-regional integration through groupings and other arrangements on the basis of mutual benefit, complementarities and solidarity among developing countries with a view to facilitating and accelerating the economic growth and development of their economies;

934.6 Considering that the potential of the South-South Cooperation needs to be fully explored, the Heads of State and Government took note of the possibility to establish a Forum of Development/Finance/Economic/Foreign Ministers of the Southern countries which would provide a platform to discuss and take action accordingly to advance South-South cooperation in the context of achieving the SDGs.

934.7 Recognize the positive contribution of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC)²⁷ in Indonesia to the efforts of organizing training programmes and enhancing the capacity of the Non-Aligned Movement Member Countries in achieving the Internationally Agreed Developments Goals, including the SDGs;

934.8 Encourage the Centre to continue working with development partners to *provide* training and capacity building programs for *developing countries*, and in this regard, further encourage member states of NAM to provide necessary assistance on a voluntary basis to the Centre towards achieving its established goals and objectives;

934.9 Recognize the positive contribution of the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries located in India, and express support for its strengthening in the context of South-South cooperation in the field of science and technology;

934.10 Strengthen the capability of developing countries to evaluate international economic issues, through the establishment of a NAM network of coordination and cooperation between academic and specialized centers of research and economic studies;

934.11 Reaffirm the central role of the South Centre as the think tank of the countries of the South, and emphasize 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. In this context, the Members of the Movement are called upon to further support the South Centre, and the Centre should establish South-South networks among relevant institutions to facilitate the exchange of programmes, academia, and in supporting the Joint Coordinating Committee in the negotiating processes of major United Nations Conferences in the Economic and Social fields;

934.12 Encourage the NAM Business Forum on South-South Cooperation, consistent with its terms of reference, to continue with its initiatives to enhance South-South trade and business relations. In this context, they recalled the success of the Second NAM Business Forum and the General Meeting of the NAM Business Council for South-South Cooperation, held in Havana, Cuba, on November 2007;

934.13 Encourage UN Member States to support international development funds aimed at financing the implementation of South-South Cooperation projects, such as the Perez Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation.

935. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Strategic framework of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in support of national development priorities. The Heads of State and Government invited the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to take concrete measures to further strengthen UNOSSC, as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system, as mandated by the General Assembly Resolution 71/243 on QCPR, so as to enable it to carry out its full responsibilities, in particular through mobilization of resources for the advancement of South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation.

936. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their strong support to the mandate of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and stressed that the Office is the articulator of South-South cooperation in the United Nations system. They *appreciated* the

²⁷ Information concerning the NAM Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, initiated by Indonesia, and located in Jakarta, Indonesia, can be obtained from its website at www.csstc.org.

countries of the South who have stepped up their cooperation with UNOSSC which has also enhanced its role and impact by up-scaling it in terms of financial, human and budgetary resources in order to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

937. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the cooperation initiatives and the substantial financial contributions made by some NAM countries, including inter alia OPEC countries based on solidarity and principles of friendship among states, which are conducive to the realization of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development, as well as initiatives for scientific and research programs on energy, environment and climate change, as decided at the OPEC Summit in Riyadh in November 2007. In this regard, they encouraged Member States to consider supporting and engaging in those mechanisms of cooperation or other relevant regional or sub-regional arrangements of a cooperative nature.

938. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* regional initiatives of South-South cooperation by some NAM members in the field of sustainable development and in this regard, they took note, inter alia, of the Mesoamerica Project on Integration and Development.

939. The Heads of State and Government *noted* the High-Level Event of the UN General Assembly on “Contributions of South-South, North-South and Triangular Cooperation and information and communication technologies for development to the post 2015 Development agenda” held on 21-22 May 2014, and reiterated the significance of North-South cooperation in supporting the development of the developing countries and South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among the peoples and countries of the south.

940. The Heads of State and Government also *took note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation its twentieth and twenty-first sessions, the decisions taken at these sessions, in particular decisions 20/1 and 21/1, and the decisions taken at the Inter-sessional meeting of 8 September 2015 and reiterated the need for strengthening the UNOSSC, in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly Resolution 71/243 on QCPR.

941. The Heads of State and Government also *took note* of some regional cooperation initiatives in the financial and economic fields, such as those undertaken by some countries of the Latin American region, like the Bank of the South, as well as initiatives of ALBA countries such as the Bank of the ALBA, the Common Reserve Fund, the Common Account Unit, and the use of the SUCRE as their currency unit.

942. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the holding of The First Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo in Doha, Qatar from 18-20 February 2014, hosted by the government of the State of Qatar and co-organized by the UNOSSC and the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Arab States, which aimed at showcasing and scaling up the impact of successful evidence-based solutions crafted and tested by countries in the Arab States region in addressing development challenges pertinent to the needs and aspirations of the region.

943. The Heads of State and Government recalled the holding of a Ministerial Conference of NAM Member states on Science, Technology and Innovation held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran on 22-24 February 2015 aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the Movement and benefiting from science and technology to enhance the socio-economic well-being of peoples of NAM Member States. They also recalled with appreciation and endorsed the Declaration issued at the end of this meeting.

944. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the holding of the 3rd International Workshop on Mineral Processing and Beneficiation organized by the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries in Harare, Zimbabwe from 11-14 September 2014. The Heads of State and Government further *welcomed* the offer by the Government of Zimbabwe to host the proposed Non-Aligned Movement Science and Technology Centre of Excellence for Minerals Processing and Beneficiation in Zimbabwe.

945. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the First and Second Ministerial Meetings of the Latin American States Affected by Transnational Interests held in Guayaquil, Ecuador on 22 April 2013, and Caracas, Venezuela on 10 September 2014 and took note of their decision to create a state-funded international observatory, which would have several tasks including reporting on the state of international litigation by transnational corporations against states. In this regard, they *noted* these efforts towards tackling disputes between states and transnational corporations.

946. The Heads of State and Government recalled the establishment and work of the Asia - Pacific Center for Development of Disaster Information Management (UNESCAP-APDIM), and commended the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the APDIM and fully funding its activities by voluntary financial and in-kind contributions. They further recognized the high importance of the APDIM program of work and activities for helping developing countries in the region to improve their resilience against disasters and reducing the risk of such disasters throughout the region. They encouraged the countries especially developed countries and the UN development system as well as international organizations to establish networks of collaboration with the APDIM and contribute to its program of work and deliveries through technical and financial support based on their development assistance priorities and policies.

947. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of Resolution 78/259 that declared the 16th September as the International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South.

Food Security

948. The Heads of State and Government expressed their deep concern at the high volatility and the increase in global food prices which directly challenges the fundamental human right to food. The resulting and ongoing food crisis poses a serious challenge to the fight against poverty and hunger, as well as to the efforts by developing countries to attain food security and achieve Goal 2 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” and its related targets. The Heads of State and Government also *underlined* the need to address the issues that impede food supply chain and distribution of food which is a major setback taking into account that much has been achieved in efforts to increase global food production. In addition, it was agreed that there is also a need to address the issue of food loss, including through capacity building and transfer of technology to developing countries, as well as the issue of food waste, in particular in developed countries. The Heads of State and Government also *took note* of the limited progress that has been made in reducing hunger in the world. However, structural problems continue to sustain the widespread hunger, food insecurity and nutrition and poverty. The continuing international economic and financial crisis further put serious hindrances in the global effort to fight against hunger as it reverberates throughout the global system through trade, aid and financial links. The multiple and complex causes of this crisis require a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained response by the international community. The Heads of State and Government also *emphasized* the importance of strengthening the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture and the Committee on World Food Security Food Security (CFS) to help addressing and preventing recurrence of food crisis.

949. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* the need to address the economic, social and environmental challenges to sustainable agriculture, and emphasized that achieving food security would require strengthening and revitalizing the agriculture sector in developing countries, including through the empowerment of small and medium scale local farmers and fishers, developing of appropriate technologies, providing technical and financial cooperation, providing access to and transfer of technology, strengthening weather-forecasting, enhancing investment in postharvest technology and infrastructure including food processing capacity building and exchange of data, information and experience as well as infrastructure development. The Heads of State and Government also emphasized the implementation of and compliance with

the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), as well as the Ten-Year Strategic Plan (2008-2018) as a basis for our collective efforts to combat desertification and land degradation to addressing food security.

950. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* the seriousness of the global food crisis and underscored that subsidies and other market distortions by developed countries have severely harmed the agricultural sector in developing countries, thereby limiting the ability of this key sector to contribute meaningfully to poverty eradication and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development, food security and nutrition and rural development. The Heads of State and Government, therefore, called for the immediate elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures by developed countries. The Heads of State and Government also *urged* the developed countries to demonstrate the necessary flexibility and political will to address meaningfully these key concerns of developing countries that are part of the remaining issues of the Doha Round of Trade Negotiations.

951. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need to revitalize the agriculture sector and promote rural development with the view to ensuring food security and nutrition, notably in developing countries, and contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries.

952. The Heads of State and Government expressed *their support* for improving food security and nutrition in Least Developed Countries, through the exchange of experiences, know-how and best practices.

953. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the need to mitigate and reduce the negative impacts of food price volatility and recommended the use of national and local social safety nets and local purchase mechanisms, whenever appropriate for the delivery of food aid and Humanitarian assistance for ensuring the implementation of effective social safety nets must include, inter alia, emergency aid measures to enhance capacity and effective delivery of food aid and ensure greater financial support to developing countries, particularly for food purchases.

954. The Heads of State and Government called *for* improving transparency, information sharing, as appropriate, and financial regulations, with a view to contributing to markets stability and minimizing excessive price volatility and to prevent speculative investment in food markets by considering food supply chain to be accessible.

955. The Heads of State and Government recalled that food security and nutrition are essential aspects of sustainable development and expressed concern that developing countries are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change further threatening food security. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* that the attainment of food security and the move towards sustainable agri-food systems including increased food production and agricultural investment, enhanced productive capacities and improved agricultural management and development and support for family farming and smallholder farmers in developing countries, are crucial issues for developing countries.

956. The Heads of State and Government recognized the need to strengthen efforts to enhance food security and nutrition and to focus efforts on smallholders and women farmers, as well as agricultural cooperative and farmer networks, supported by measures to improve access to markets, enable domestic and international environments and strengthen collaboration across the many initiatives in this area, including regional initiatives.

957. The Heads of State and Government, therefore, *called upon* the Food and Agriculture Organization – FAO in collaboration with relevant UN entities and regional and sub-regional organizations to continue addressing global and regional food security, in particular, through the full and timely implementation and operationalization of short-term responses. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the central role of the Committee on World Food Security CFS of FAO for agriculture, food security and nutrition. They *noted*, in this context, that

FAO's Strategic Framework (2022-2031) seeks, among others, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

958. The Heads of State and Government expressed the conviction that South-South and triangular cooperation, including investment in agriculture and food security is more needed today than ever. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the South-South and triangular initiatives to enhance and expand exchange of human resources, experiences and know-how in these areas to support agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture to increase the availability of food, such as the African Adaptation Initiative, the "Adaptation of African Agriculture -AAA" and the "Security, Stability and Sustainability (3S)" initiative.

959. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need to leverage the role of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as a means to promote and support industrial and semi-industrial ventures and ensure food security and nutrition, including through the promotion of sustainable agriculture and food systems, food processing agro-industries, which have the potential to link with global value chains and effectively address the market needs of developing countries.

960. The Heads of State and Government called *upon* Member States to continue actively engaged in the promotion of the realization of the right to food in all countries. In this regard, they recalled with appreciation the holding, at the initiative of NAM, of a Special Session of the Human Rights Council in 2008 on "The negative impact on the realization of the right to food of the worsening of the world food crisis, caused inter alia by the soaring food prices" and urged all Member States to pay special attention to the implementation of UN resolutions on the right to food adopted yearly by the General Assembly and Human Rights Council.

961. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. They reiterated the importance of developing countries determining their own food security strategies in their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. In this context, they recognized that agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing the needs of a growing global population and is inextricably linked to poverty eradication, especially in developing countries, and stressed that integrated and sustainable agriculture including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture as well as rural development approaches are therefore essential to achieving enhanced food security and nutrition in an environmentally sustainable way.

962. The Heads of State and Government also *reiterated* that food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure. They reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation and solidarity as well as the necessity of refraining from undertaking such unilateral coercive measures that affect the trade related to food that endanger food security impacting specially groups in vulnerable situations and are not in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.

963. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security (13-17 November 2006), the Second International Conference on Nutrition (19-21 November 2014), and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, including the goal of achieving food security and nutrition for all through an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries.

964. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the Declaration of the World Food Summit on 15 November 2009, and the importance of the Second NAM First Ladies Summit, convened by Egypt, at the FAO headquarters in Rome in view of its role in addressing many aspects of hunger and malnutrition and identifying concrete steps that NAM First Ladies could initiate to address

these issues, including through the exchange of national experiences in ensuring women access to resources, particularly land and finance, as well as human capital and knowledge.

965. The Heads of State and Government also recognized the importance of initiatives under the United Nations system, including the observance of World Pulses Day, World Tuna Day, Sustainable Gastronomy Day, World Bee Day, World Food Safety Day, World Soil Day, International Day of Combatting Sand and Dust Storms, the International Day of Argania, the International Year of Camelids, the International Year of Plant Health, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, and the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028), International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021, International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022, International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, aimed at increasing public awareness of relevant agriculture, food security and nutritional benefits.

966. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the International Year of Quinoa 2013, and High Level Panel on Food Security and Nutrition, at the sixty seventh session of the General Assembly on the United Nations, held on 20 February 2013, which constituted the first step in an ongoing process to focus world attention on the Quinoa’s important role. The quinoa's biodiversity and nutritional value make it central to providing food security and nutrition and to poverty eradication, as well as of promoting the traditional knowledge of the Andean indigenous peoples, contributing to the achievement of food security, nutrition and poverty eradication and raising awareness of their contribution to social, economic and environmental development, and to share good practices on the implementation of activities the Year, as indicated in the master plan of activities for the Year, entitled “A future sown thousands of years ago”, in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the Sustainable Development Goals.

967. The Heads of State and Government *supported* the organization of the International Committee for the Coordination of the International Year of Quinoa, which will promote programs and activities to ensure the success of the International Year of Quinoa.

968. The Heads of State and Government recognized the efforts made by Andean peoples to promote Quinoa as a nutritious food during its International Year, which attracted world attention on the role of this crop as an alternative for those countries suffering from food insecurity.

969. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the appointment of H.E. Mr. Juan Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia as a Special Ambassador of Quinoa, for the years 2013 and 2014 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recognizing his leadership and commitment in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, through the promotion of the special benefits of quinoa and its important role in the consecution of food security worldwide.

970. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 75/263 declaring year 2023 the International Year of Millets in recognition of the important contribution of millets to the cultivation of nutritious foods in climate adverse environments and the historical contribution of millets to nutrition, livelihoods and incomes of family farmers and global food security in general.

971. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* with appreciation the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 72/210 declaring 2024 the International Year of the Camelids and invited Member States to promote programs and related activities so as to raise awareness about the importance of preserving the six camelid species that are still alive, namely camels, Bactrian camels, llamas, alpacas, vicuñas and guanacos, highlighting that camelids are the main livelihoods for millions of poor families who live in the most hostile ecosystems on the planet, and contribute to the fight against hunger, extreme poverty eradication, women empowerment and the sustainable use of their ecosystems.

972. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation UN General Assembly's resolution 66/222, adopting the Philippine initiative for the declaration of the year 2014 as the UN International Year of Family Farming and also resolution 72/239 on UN Decade of Family Farming and the efforts to raise the profile of family and smallholder farming on its significant role in alleviating hunger and poverty in rural areas. They also recalled with appreciation UN General Assembly's resolution 77/217 on Right to food and resolution 77/186 on Agricultural Development, Food Security and Nutrition.

973. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the UN General Assembly's adoption of resolution 68/232 on World Soil Day and International Year of Soils. They also *invited* Member States to promote programmes and activities to observe 5 December as the World Soil Day and 2015 as the International Year of Soils, so as to raise awareness on the importance of this natural resource.

974. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the need to further examine various concepts such as "food sovereignty" and its relation to food security and the right to food, taking into account the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all peoples at all times.

975. The Heads of State and Government endorsed the outcome document of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN-2), organized by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), that took place in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014 to approve the food security, food system and the nutrition policy framework for the coming decades and priorities for international cooperation in the field of nutrition in the short and medium term.

976. The Heads of State and Government recognized the initiative of the former Dominican Republic President H.E. Leonel Fernandez Reyna regarding addressing excessive price volatility in food and related financial and commodity markets, and reiterated their support to the resolution 66/188 adopted by the General Assembly in this respect entitled excessive international financial market speculation.

977. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* the Movement's commitment to the goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition through initiatives and public policies taking into account the principles of the World Summit on Food Security held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 2009 and, for those countries that recognize the concept, "Knowing how to Eat in order to Live Well", and considering that in order to live well it is required that food security and nutrition be promoted in harmony with nature, generating conditions for individuals and society to develop their full potential.

978. The Heads of State and Government also *called upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmers of the United Nations system to provide to developing countries financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, through international assistance and cooperation, in order to scale up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

979. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 73/165 and resolution 39/12 of the Human Rights Council, which adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, for it recognizes that peasants and rural communities play an important role in economic, social and environmental development, which are also fundamental to attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals. They invited Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Declaration and to promote universal respect and understanding thereof.

980. The Heads of State and Government recognized the constant efforts promoted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to contribute with the eradication of hunger and poverty in the region and, in this respect, highlight the work undertaken by ALBA-TPC and PETROCARIBE, as the cornerstone of important regional cooperation projects aimed at guaranteeing the implementation of the human right to food, with a sustainable development approach.

981. The Heads of State and Government, conscious of the need to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition worldwide, particularly undernourishment, stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight in children under 5 years of age and anemia in women and children, among other micronutrient deficiency, as well as reverse the rising trends in overweight and obesity and reduce the burden of diet-related non-communicable diseases in all age groups, *welcomed* the adoption of resolution 70/259 by the UN General Assembly which, *inter alia*, decides to proclaim the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025.

982. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the publications entitled The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018: building climate resilience for food security and nutrition, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Children's Fund, and the State of Food and Agriculture 2018: Migration, agriculture and rural development, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

983. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the publications entitled The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 repurposing food and agriculture policies to make healthy diets more affordable, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Program, the World Health Organization, and the State of Food and Agriculture 2022: leveraging automation in agriculture for transforming agri-food systems, issues by FAO.

984. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the holding of the Ministerial Segment of the 36th Session of FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC 36) in Baghdad, Iraq, from 7 to 8 February 2022, under the theme "Recover and Restart: Innovations for better, greener and more resilient agri-food systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals", which elaborated regional challenges and priorities related to this topic in the NENA region to ensure the effectiveness of FAO's impact in the region and to help in defining its work priorities for the next biennium, and *welcomed* its Ministerial Declaration.

Housing and sustainable urban development

985. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the adoption of the outcome document, entitled "New Urban Agenda", by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016, a meaningful outcome which will guide the international community towards sustainable urban development and human settlements in the next twenty years and provide an opportunity to promote a positive, mutually reinforcing relationship between cities and their surroundings, across the human settlements continuum. They expressed their firm belief that sustainable urban development and human settlements are key drivers of sustainable development in national and sub-national development plans including participation of local governments and relevant stakeholders. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their political support and commitment to the implementation as well as the follow up and review of the New Urban Agenda. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the convening of the High-level meeting to assess the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda held in New York on April 28, 2022.

986. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly, held from 27-31 May 2019, at the headquarters of UN-Habitat, in Nairobi,

Kenya, under the theme “Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities” and the Sub theme: “Accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals” and welcomed the convening of the second session from 5-9 June 2023 under the theme “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises”. They also welcomed the establishment of the Executive Board of UN-Habitat and the election of its members.

987. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the holding of the 9th World Urban Forum (WUF9) in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) from 7 to 13 February 2018, initiated by the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), under the theme "City 2030: cities for all, implement the new urban agenda", which examined the proper mechanisms for better management of cities and urban spaces.

988. The Heads of State and Government *look forward* to the 12th World Urban Forum, scheduled to take place in Egypt in 2024.

989. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of UN-Habitat GC resolution 26/2 on Enhancing the role of UN-Habitat in urban crisis response, which established a fund, aimed at facilitating the rapid deployment of UN-Habitat in response to urban crises and emergencies within existing human resources and called upon Member States of the United Nations and relevant stakeholders to do so to contribute generously to the fund, and commended this regard Iraq for the proposing this initiative.

International Migration and Development

990. The Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of the issue of migration as a phenomenon of global proportions which is forecasted to grow in importance due to a number of wide-ranging factors.

991. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged that no State can address international migration alone because of its inherently transnational nature, requiring international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue.

992. The Heads of State and Government underlined the importance of addressing the complex and varied root causes of migration including through addressing the development dimension in international migration policies. They *also underlined* the need for a better understanding of migration patterns across and within regions, regardless of the level of development.

993. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the responsibility of Governments, at all levels, to safeguard and protect the rights of all migrants in accordance with international and domestic laws, including applying, and where needed, reinforcing existing laws against all illegal or violent acts; in particular acts, of and incitement, to ethnic, racial, sex and religious discrimination as well as crimes perpetrated with racist or xenophobic motivation by individuals or groups against migrants, especially in the context of the global economic crisis that increases the vulnerability of migrants in host countries.

994. The Heads of State and Government agreed to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as with obligations and commitments under all relevant international instruments to which they are party. They *also noted* that the ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Migrant Workers of 13 January 2007 needs to be supported as a positive step in safeguarding the fundamental rights and dignity of migrant workers, and in this regard, welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers of 14 November 2017 as well as the development of its action plan. They also

look forward to the finalization of the ASEAN Declaration on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers in ASEAN.

995. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 3 October 2013, which decides, inter alia, to work towards an effective and inclusive agenda on international migration that integrates development and respects human rights; to address the opportunities and the challenges that international migration presents to countries of origin, transit and destination; and calls upon all stakeholders, within their respective mandates, to strengthen their collaboration and cooperation to better and fully address the issue of international migration and development, in order to adopt a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approach.

996. The Heads of State and Government recalled *with appreciation* the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted in September 2016, by virtue of which, the General Assembly decided to develop an intergovernmental process, which started in 2017, towards a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, and a global compact on refugees.

997. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the Intergovernmental Conference held from 10-11 December 2018, in Marrakech, Morocco, during which the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, also known as the Marrakech Compact on Migration, was adopted.

998. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the first Ministerial Meeting of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Champion Countries, held on 25 March 2022 in Rabat, in which they highlighted the commitment of champion countries for the promotion of the implementation of the GCM. Subsequently, from 28 to 30 November 2023, a second inter-regional, inter-African dialogue in Accra, Ghana focused on the key themes of the African Agenda for Migration.

999. The Heads of State and Government noted the holding, in Rabat, Morocco, from 13 to 15 June 2023 of the Third Global Consultation on the Health of Refugees and Migrants, organized in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Consultation led to the adoption of the Rabat Declaration.

1000. The Heads of State and Government took *note* with appreciation of the convening of the first International Migration Review Forum from 17 to 20 May 2022, and the endorsement of its Progress Declaration as a whole, without a vote, by the General Assembly in its resolution 76/266 of 7 June 2022.

1001. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the setting up in 2020-2021 of the regional reviews on the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration jointly organized by the United Nations Regional Commissions, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Migration Network in the European region on 12-13 November 2020 virtually; Western Asia and the League of Arab States region on 24-25 February 2021 virtually; Asia-Pacific region on 10-12 March 2021 in Thailand; Latin America and the Caribbean region on 26-28 April 2021 virtually; and the African region on 31 August - 1 September 2021 in Morocco.

1002. The Heads of State and Government commended the Kingdom of Morocco for the central role it played in hosting and chairing the Intergovernmental Conference convened under the auspices of the General Assembly of the United Nations and held in Marrakech, Morocco on 10-11 December 2018, to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which is also known as the Marrakech Compact on Migration.

1003. The Heads of State and Government underlined that the issues of migration and development must be addressed comprehensively, mindful of the economic, social and environmental dimensions and include a cultural and human perspective. They recognized the need to address this issue through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive, balanced, coordinated and coherent approach, recognizing the role and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants and their families, especially those of women and children, regardless of their migration status.

1004. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the inauguration by the Kingdom of Morocco and the African Union in Rabat, Morocco, on 18 December 2020 of the African Observatory on Migration, following the proposal by His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, designated leader on Migration in Africa, contained in his report “*for an African Agenda on Migration*”, which was presented to the 30th Summit of the African Union in January 2018.

1005. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* concern at the legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices, that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, and reaffirmed that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government also *acknowledged* that special measures in the treatment of migrants should be implemented specially in the cases of the elderly, women and children. Furthermore, they acknowledged the need for increased cooperation and partnership between North and South for the protection of all migrants, and for enhancing their contribution in achieving development.

1006. The Heads of State and Government recognized that trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants continue to pose a serious challenge to humanity and require concerted international response, based on cooperation and sharing of information, as appropriate. The Heads of State and Government also *recognized* the importance of cooperation and responsibility sharing among countries of origin, transit, and destination in addressing the problem of smuggling of migrants, as appropriate; and, urged all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons and to counter the demands that foster all forms of exploitation of persons that lead to trafficking and to protect the victims, in particular women and children subjected to forced labor, or sexual or commercial exploitation, violence and sexual abuse.

1007. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that effective action to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air including by using a third country, requires a comprehensive approach, at the national, regional and international levels; and to that end, urged all States to adopt effective measures, inter alia, protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of smuggled migrants, especially women and children, in accordance with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and national laws.

1008. The Heads of State and Government highlighted the importance of awareness campaigns to change the negative public perception towards migration in the framework of the efforts to protect migrants and their rights and in this regard encouraged States to acknowledge the important social, economic and cultural contribution provided by migrants and migration to development, eradicating poverty in all its forms as well as the complex interrelationship between migration and development.

1009. The Heads of State and Government recalled the convening of the Sixth Bali Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, organized by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of Australia, held in Bali, 23 March 2016. The Meeting further promoted dialogue and practical cooperation on trafficking in persons, people smuggling, irregular migration and related transnational crimes amongst its participating States, encompassing source, transit and destination countries. The

Meeting adopted Bali Declaration to reinforce members' commitment to tackle the complex challenges of recent unprecedented levels of displacement and mobility seen globally. The Heads of State and Government highlighted the signature of the Declaration of Principles and General Guidelines of the South American Conference on Migration and the South American Human Development Plan of Migration, as well as the commitment of the members of this Conference to applying effective and swift mechanisms of regularization to the citizens of the region, in the Tenth South American Conference on Migration, celebrated on the 25 and 26 October 2010 in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative (AU-HOA) launched in 2014, in Khartoum, Sudan, in response to the rise of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants in the region. This initiative is underpinned by the African Union's increasing focus on providing in-depth understanding of the configurations, dynamics and policy challenges in respect to human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, whilst having closer consideration of the intersection between migration and inclusive development.

1010. The Heads of State and Government recognized the implications of the migration of highly skilled persons and those with advanced education, and semi-skilled persons from developing countries; and further underscored the need for the international community to address these implications, in particular the negative impact that the migration of those persons from many developing countries has on the development efforts of their country of origin.

1011. The Heads of State and Government affirmed the need to enhance and diversify pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration, including in response to demographic and labour market realities.

1012. The Heads of State and Government encouraged labour mobility to attain a 'triple win' outcome for countries of origin, destination and migrants, while recognizing the need to avoid brain drain and encourage upskilling migrants.

1013. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the importance of bilateral and multilateral labour migration agreements as an effective tool in fostering a safe, regular and orderly process of migration.

1014. The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the initiatives undertaken by Member States, relevant regional and international inter-governmental organizations at the regional and international levels to promote dialogue and cooperation on international migration and development, including their contribution to comprehensively address international migration.

1015. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the participation of the IOM Director General at the Summit of NAM Contact Group in Response to COVID-19 held on 2 March 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan and encouraged the Director General to continue cooperation with Non-Aligned Movement.

1016. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged that the Global Forum meetings have an important role to play in bringing all the stakeholders in an attempt to harness the full developmental benefits together of international migration. They also recognized that the exchange of expertise, consultation and closer cooperation between the GFMD and the United Nations system could have a positive impact.

1017. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the first Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Brussels, Belgium, on 9-11 July 2007, which focused on the central theme of "Migration and socio-economic development"; of the Second Meeting of the Global Forum, held in Manila, the Philippines, from 27 to 30 November 2008, which focused on the central theme of "Protection and Empowerment of Migrants for Development"; in recognition of the importance of this issue, of the third Meeting of the Global Forum held in Athens, Greece, from 2 to 5 November 2009 with the overarching theme of "Integrating Migration Policies into Development Strategies for the Benefit of All"; of the fourth Meeting of the Global Forum held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 8 to 10 November 2010 with the central theme "Partnerships for Migration and Human Development: Shared Prosperity Shared Responsibly"; of the Fifth Meeting

of the Global Forum held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 12 December 2011 with the overall theme of “Taking Action on Migration and Development: Coherence, Capacity and Cooperation”, of the sixth Meeting of the Global Forum held in Pailles, Mauritius, on 19-22 November 2012 with the theme of “Enhancing the Human Development of Migrants and their Contribution to the Development of Communities and States” as well as of the Seventh Meeting of the Global Forum held in Stockholm, Sweden from 14-16 May 2014 with the theme: “Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development” and of the Ninth Meeting of the Global Forum held in Dacca, Bangladesh, with the theme of “Migration that works for Sustainable Development for All: Towards a Transformative Migration Agenda”.

1018. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the first joint co-chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development by Morocco and Germany for the years 2017 and 2018, and further welcome the holding of the 10th Summit of the Forum in Berlin, on 28-30 June 2017, on the theme “Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development” as well as the 11th Summit of the Forum under the overarching theme, “Honouring International Commitments (the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact on Migration) to unlock the potential of migrants for development”, which took place in Marrakech, in Morocco, on 05-07 December 2018.

1019. The Heads of State and Government recognized the relationship between international migration, the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants and development.

1020. The Heads of State and Government encouraged efforts of Member States and the international community to promote a balanced and comprehensive approach to international migration and development, particularly by building partnerships and ensuring coordinated action to develop capacities, including for the management of migration. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government requested all Member States, in accordance with their relevant international obligations and commitments, to promote cooperation at all levels in addressing the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, so as to foster a safe, regular and orderly process of migration.

1021. The Heads of State and Government, recognizing the critical linkages between international migration and development, *reiterated* the importance of effective initiatives to promote safe migration and facilitate free movement of labour. In this context, they emphasized that the Doha Development Round should conclude with a comprehensive solution to the concerns expressed by developing countries, taking into account their interests and objectives regarding the positive impacts of labour migration both in countries of origin and destination.

1022. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the programmes adopted by some host countries that allow migrants to integrate fully into their societies, facilitate family reunification and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment; and urged States to consider, as appropriate, adopting similar programmes, and, in case of repatriation, to ensure that the mechanisms they implement allow for the proper identification of nationalities, to be in conformity with their international obligations and commitments, and to ensure the principle of the best interest of the child and family reunification.

1023. The Heads of State and Government noted that efforts of full integration of migrants in the host countries should be encouraged, including family reunification in accordance with the laws and the specific criteria of each member state. Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government encouraged destination countries to facilitate the links of migrants with their countries of origin, including on economic, cultural and human levels.

1024. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the important role of all migrants in the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination, and the need to enhance protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. They *encouraged* all States to consider reducing the costs related to migration such as the fees paid to recruiters, where applicable, lowering the transfer costs of remittances, enhancing the portability of social security

entitlements and other acquired rights and promoting the mutual recognition of the educational and professional qualifications and competencies of migrants, as well as promoting harmonization and compatibility of National Qualification Frameworks. They also *emphasized* the need for countries of destination of migrants to adopt policies that promote conditions for faster, cheaper and safer remittances by migrants to developing countries without any bias or discrimination. They further *highlighted* the need to support migrants in maintaining their links and contributions to the development to their countries of origin, including by taking specific measures to reduce the transaction costs of remittances below 3% of the amount remitted, consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals.

1025. The Heads of State and Government underlined that remittances cannot be considered as a substitute for foreign direct investment, ODA, debt relief or other public sources of finance for development. They are typically wages transferred to families, mainly to meet part of the needs of the recipient households. A large portion of migrants' incomes is spent in destination countries of migrants and constitutes an important stimulus to domestic demand in the economies of destination countries of migrants. Furthermore, the disposal of remittances and deployment thereof is an individual choice.

1026. The Heads of State and Government *invited* all states that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted by General Assembly Resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, as a matter of priority, and Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime adopted by General Assembly Resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000.

1027. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and sub-regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to address the issue of international migration and development, with a view to integrating migration issues, in a more coherent and comprehensive way, within the broader context of the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

1028. The Heads of State and Government *noted* that 84% of the world's internally displaced and refugees are in developing countries, which struggle to pursue sustainable development. This situation requires enhancing international cooperation to share the burden and responsibility of hosting them, as well as emphasizing the importance of peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts long-term sustainable development activities to ensure that the structural reasons for displacement are tackled.

Water

1029. The Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of clean water and sanitation for social, economic and environmental development, and that water is a key to sustainable development. They recalled what was agreed by the 13th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in 2005 and the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in November 2002 that recognized the importance of water as a vital and finite natural resource, which has an economic, social and environmental function, and acknowledged the right to water for all.

1030. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of integrated water resources management and its sustainable use at all levels, including at basin level.

1031. The Heads of State and Government *called for* increased assistance to developing countries by the United Nations, Multilateral Development Banks, Regional Organizations, developed countries and other donors in their efforts to prepare integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans while considering social and environmental factors as part of their national development strategies and to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

in accordance with the principle of the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcome of Rio+20, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1032. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* the need to improve clean water resource management and scientific understanding of the water cycle through cooperation in joint observation and research, and for this purpose, reiterated the need to encourage and promote knowledge-sharing and provide capacity-building and the transfer of technology, in favorable terms, including remote-sensing and satellite technologies, particularly to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

1033. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need to intensify water pollution prevention to reduce health hazards and protect ecosystems by introducing technologies for affordable sanitation and industrial and domestic wastewater treatment, by mitigating the effects of groundwater contamination and by establishing, at the national level, monitoring and control systems and effective legal frameworks.

1034. The Heads of State and Government recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights and recalled with appreciation in this regard the adoption of resolutions 68/157, 70/169 and 72/178 of the General Assembly, they also encouraged all member states to put forward actions that allow its full implementation.

1035. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the holding of the first Ministerial Forum on Water of the Group of 77 held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 23-25 February 2009, and noted the Muscat Declaration on Water adopted by the meeting. The Heads of State and Government also noted the 8th Edition of the Forum held in Brasilia, Brazil, on March 2018.

1036. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the UN General Assembly's adoption of resolution 71/222 on the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028, which will have greater focus on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and on the implementation and promotion of related programs and projects, as well as on the furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1037. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed*, in this regard, the UN General Assembly's adoption of Resolution 73/226 on the Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, and *welcomed* the convening in New York, from 22 to 24 March 2023, coinciding with World Water Day, of the United Nations Conference on this matter, and *called* to build upon its significant momentum to accelerate progress in the second halves of both the Water Action Decade 2018-2028 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1038. The Heads of State and Government *commended* the efforts exerted by the Arab Republic of Egypt during its Presidency of the 27th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, November 2022, to prioritize water within climate action, which led to the inclusion of water for the first time in the final COP cover decision in addition to the launch of the Action on Water Adaptation and Resilience initiative (AWARe), the organization of a special pavilion dedicated to water issues, the convening of a high-level round table on Water Security, and the organization of the first-ever Thematic Day on Water.

1039. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the convening of the third Baghdad International Water Conference, in Baghdad, Iraq on 6-7 of May 2023, under the theme "Water scarcity, the marshes of Mesopotamia, and the Shatt al-Arab environment is everyone's responsibility", as a technical forum dedicated to discuss water scarcity and to encourage and

promote knowledge-sharing and lessons learned regarding integrated water resources management and innovation.

1040. The Heads of State and Government look *forward* to convening of the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, on 18 - 24 May 2024, under the theme “Water for shared prosperity”.

Desertification

1041. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that desertification, land degradation and drought are challenges of global dimension, felt most strongly by developing countries, as well as people in vulnerable situations. International action is, therefore, urgently required to address these challenges. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* the great importance for all regions of the world of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, particularly in Africa, stressing that desertification, land degradation, and drought as well as sand and dust storms undermine the three dimensions of sustainable development. They reiterated that addressing desertification, land degradation and drought and as well as sand and dust storms enables countries to deal with several global policy challenges, such as food security, adaptation to climate change and forced migration. They also recalled with appreciation the UN General Assembly’s adoption of Resolutions 69/221, 70/206, 70/195, 71/229, 72/220, 73/233, 74/220, 75/218, 76/206, 77/166 and 77/171 on Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

1042. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the outcomes of the 15th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, which was convened from 9 to 20 May 2022, in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. They look forward to the convening of the 16th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, to be held from 2 to 13 December 2024, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

1043. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the establishment of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification’s Regional Coordination Unit for Africa in Rabat, Morocco, as a way to promote the implementation of the Convention in Africa, which is considered the most affected by drought and desertification.

1044. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the outcomes of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD), held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017, and further *welcomed* the adoption of the 2018-2030 Strategic Framework of the Convention, including a new strategic objective on drought, and target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

1045. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* the need to address the economic, social and environmental impact of climate change, desertification and land degradation in Africa and highlighted the importance of supporting, as appropriate, the implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing agriculture resilience in Africa, in particular initiatives launched under the leadership of the African Union Commission such as “The Great Green Wall” and “The Land Policy Initiative”, as well as other initiatives launched by African countries such as the “Adaptation of African Agriculture”, and the “Security, Stability and Sustainability in Africa”.

1046. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the need for strengthening cooperation as appropriate through the sharing of climate and weather information and forecasting and early

warning systems related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and sub-regional levels. In this regard, they invited States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information and forecasting and early warning systems.

1047. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of the further development and implementation of scientifically based, sound and socially inclusive methods and indicators for monitoring and assessing the extent of desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the importance of efforts under way to promote scientific research in accordance with the Convention.

1048. The Heads of State and Government appreciated the establishment of the SPI as the scientific advice body, under the UNCCD to enhance policy directives under the Convention.

1049. The Heads of State and Government expressed *their appreciation* to the Republic of Ecuador for its commitment to host the global observance of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, on 17 June 2018. The Heads of State and Government also welcomed with appreciation UN General Assembly resolution 77/171 to consider designation of a day of each year as the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to further raise international awareness of sand and dust storms.

Combatting Sand and Dust Storms

1050. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the UN General Assembly resolution 72/225 entitled combating sand and dust storms in which the General Assembly invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider initiating an inter-agency process involving relevant entities of the United Nations system to prepare a global response to sand and dust storms, including a situation analysis, a strategy and an action plan, which could result in the development of a United Nations system-wide approach to addressing sand and dust storms in which can be used as an inter-agency framework for medium or long-term cooperation and division of labor. They also recalled with appreciation the convening of the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran from 3 to 5 July 2017, and the Second International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust storms held in Tehran, from 9 -10 September 2023 in line with the UN General Assembly Resolution 77/171. hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and took note of the Ministerial Declaration and the technical recommendations of the Conference.

1051. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the UN General Assembly resolution 73/237 which welcomes the intention of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish an inter-agency network involving relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, with the aim of enhancing United Nations system-wide cooperation and coordination on the sand and dust storms agenda, and encourages all relevant agencies to continue to work closely to support the network and to ensure a more coherent and consistent approach to tackling sand and dust storm issues at the global, regional and national levels, as appropriate.

1052. The Heads of State and Government expressed their concern that dust and sand storms in the last few years inflicted substantial damages to the socio-economic situation of the inhabitants, especially in Africa and Asia. They recognized efforts and cooperation of member states at the regional international levels to control and reduce the negative effects on human settlements in vulnerable regions. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government welcomed various initiatives by member countries to increase and facilitate the cooperation on the prevention and management of dust storms and sandstorms, including the regional ministerial meeting on environmental cooperation for a better future, held in the Islamic Republic of Iran on 12 July 2022, to find solutions for regional environmental challenges, especially the issue of sand and dust storms.

1053. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the operationalization of the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, which is pursuing efforts, within its mandate and resources, to move to the implementation stage, and aims, inter alia, to promote and coordinate a collaborative United Nations system response to the growing issue of sand and dust storms on a local, regional and global scale, ensuring that unified and coherent action is taken, and to facilitate the capacity-building of Member States, raise their awareness and enhance their preparedness and response to sand and dust storms in critical regions.

1054. The Heads of State and Government recognized that sand and dust storms are an issue of international concern, the costs of which are measured in economic, social and environmental terms, and that sand and dust storms continue to grow and negatively affect the achievement of 11 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their means of implementation.

1055. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of the General Assembly's resolution 77/249, in which it decided to proclaim 12 of July as the International Day of Combating sand and dust storms.

1056. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the decision of designating a day of each year as the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, to further raise international awareness of sand and dust storms during the seventy - seventh session of the General Assembly.

1057. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that sand and dust storms and the unsustainable land management, soil, agricultural and livestock practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, including climate change, pose a serious challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, also recognizes that, in the past few years, sand and dust storms have inflicted substantial economic, social and environmental damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, especially in Africa and Asia, and underscores the need to treat them and to promptly take measures to address those challenges.

1058. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the UN General Assembly resolution 77/171 which invites the Secretary - General to consider designating a relevant agency or entity with adequate capacity to act as a focal point on sand and dust storms in the United Nations system to follow up the decisions in the relevant resolutions and the United Nations Coalition on Combating Sand and Dust Storms.

1059. The Heads of State and Government *also acknowledged* the generous offer by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an international conference on combating sand and dust storms, with the cooperation of the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as well as other relevant United Nations entities, in 2023.

1060. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the relevance of the efforts and cooperation of Member States at the regional and international levels to control and reduce the negative impacts of sand and dust storms on human settlements in vulnerable regions, recalling its resolution 72/225, in which it noted the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran from 3 to 5 July 2017, welcoming the holding of other meetings with the active participation of all countries, and taking note with appreciation of other ongoing initiatives by various countries to combat sand and dust storms, especially at the regional level.

Biological Diversity

1061. The Heads of State and Government highlighted that we live in a planet with limited resources and intense human activities, in particular, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption especially in developed countries, are affecting the functioning of Earth's systems.

In this regard they expressed that the land, forests, rivers, wetlands, sea, biodiversity, atmosphere, glaciers and other components are vital parts of those systems that need to be preserved, and regenerated to maintain the balance of life.

1062. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the UN General Assembly resolution 73/284 entitled “United Nations Decade on Ecosystems Restoration (2021-2030)”, with the aim of supporting and scaling up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide and raise awareness on the importance of successful ecosystem restoration.

1063. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the UN General Assembly’s adoption of resolution 77/167 on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its contribution to sustainable development.

1064. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the importance of Strengthening the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and just international regime on access and benefit sharing that respect the sovereign rights, of States over their natural resources and promotes the fair and equitable benefit sharing from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional and local knowledge in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and recalled with appreciation the coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol on 12 October 2014.

1065. The Heads of State and Government also *noted* that the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in two parts: Kunming, China from 11 to 15 October 2022 and Montreal, Canada from 7 to 19 December 2022, as well as the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Cartagena Protocol Biosafety and the forth Meeting of the Conference to the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Nagoya Protocol and recognizing that the outcomes of the meetings may contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They welcomed the adoption of the decisions, including the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and look forward to their timely and full implementation.

1066. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the commitment to the achievement of the three objectives of the CBD and called for urgent actions to effectively slow, halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, and accordingly called for the necessary means of implementation for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account that the means of implementation should be commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.

1067. The Heads of State and Government *called* for transformative actions from all relevant stakeholders and the provision of adequate and sufficient means of implementation for developing countries to ensure the full implementation of the Convention to halt biodiversity loss, including by providing and mobilizing new, additional and predictable financial resources, technological transfer and capacity building, to support the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

1068. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the importance of access and benefit sharing in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognized the need for adequate means of implementation, especially through significant mobilization of resources from developed countries for financing, capacity building, and transfer of technologies in favorable conditions to developing and Least Developed Countries in this regard.

1069. The Heads of State and Government *noted* the official launch of the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership during the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as an innovative mechanism to catalyze the implementation of the Kunming-

Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, harnessing financial and non-financial resources from all sources, and sharing knowledge and best practices from its members with the aim to support accelerated NBSAP enhancement and implementation.

1070. The Heads of State and Government encouraged the respective parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol, and the Nagoya Protocol, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that impede their full implementation.

1071. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* the international community to support developing and Least Developed Countries in their efforts to conserve and manage their biological resources including all types of forests on a sustainable basis, through international financial mechanisms, as well as through technical assistance, capacity building and transfer of technology in favorable conditions, and in this regard stressed the need to create a global fund on forests to provide predictable adequate financial resources, without conditionality and fully respecting their sovereign right over their resources. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government called on the United Nations Forum on Forests to establish a Global Forest Fund.

1072. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and the Quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2021–2024, commending its linkages in fostering the implementation of related SDG's and targets in the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

1073. The Heads of State and Government also *took note* of the role of forests and sustainable forest management in sustainable development, taking into account different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve sustainable development in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and took into account the rights of nature in the context of promotion of sustainable development.

1074. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the importance of measures to ensure the sustainable management of marine biodiversity and ecosystems, including fish stocks, which contribute to food security and poverty eradication efforts, including through ecosystem approaches to ocean management, and to address the adverse effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity.

1075. The Heads of State and Government recognized that millions of the world's inhabitants depend on the health of coral reefs and related marine ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development, as they are a primary source of food and income, and also provide protection from storms, tsunamis and coastal erosion.

1076. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of regional initiatives on the protection of coral reefs and related ecosystems, including the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF), the Micronesia Challenge, the Caribbean Challenge, the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape Project, and the Indian Ocean Challenge, West-African Conservation Challenge and the Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs for the Americas Region.

1077. The Heads of State and Government requested developed countries, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to take all practicable steps to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how to developing countries, particularly least developed countries, to enable them to take all necessary actions for the coastal zones management and protection of coral reefs and related ecosystems. They called on all countries to promote and cooperate in the full, open and prompt exchange of relevant scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and legal information related to the protection of coral reefs and related marine ecosystems.

1078. The Heads of State and Government *took note with appreciation* of the sixth plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, held in Bonn, Germany, from 3 to 9 July 2022, which aimed at providing policy-relevant information on biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a view to assist decision makers, including through thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species and its methodological assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature.

1079. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of the Rio Conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of all these instruments.

1080. In this perspective, The Heads of State and Government welcomed adoption 2030 rolling of the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and encourage further participation of all member states, in particular representatives of developing countries, in contributing to the scoping process for the global and regional commitments of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

1081. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the importance of protecting biodiversity of our marine and coastal ecosystems, and the need to protect them from the challenges posed by climate change and the harmful impacts of human activity and the various threats that currently affect them, including the pollution of land and marine sources by plastics and micro-plastics, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and overexploitation.

The Dead Sea

1082. The Heads of State and Government once again *expressed concern* over the continuous deterioration and degradation of the unique ecosystem of the Dead Sea and emphasized the importance of working progressively towards reversing this environmental catastrophe. They drew attention of the international community to the need for international action to protect the Dead Sea and prevent any further environmental degradation of its ecosystem through concessional grants.

The Caribbean Sea

1083. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated their concern* over the continued shipment of hazardous wastes through the waters of the Caribbean Sea. In recognition of the cooperative efforts of Caribbean States to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development of the oceans and seas, they welcomed the UN General Assembly resolution 77/163 entitled “Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generation”, and stressed the importance to continue working on the implementation of the declaration of Mauritius (January 2005). In this regard, they expressed support for the regional initiatives aimed at having the Caribbean Sea declared a “special area”, and they pledged their support to assist in promoting the sustainable development of this group of especially vulnerable countries, for which international cooperation continues to be an essential factor, and drew the attention of the international community to the need for international action for the Caribbean Sea to be considered as a special area within the context of sustainable development.

Illegal Fishing and Dumping of Toxic and Hazardous Waste

1084. The Heads of State and Government decried in the strongest terms, and expressed deep concern over the continuing acts of illegal fishing and dumping of toxic and hazardous waste in

the lands and maritime spaces of African states, other developing and least developed countries. The Heads of State and Government *demanded* an immediate end to these practices and called on all governments to act in accordance to their legal obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and all relevant international instruments.

Lake Chad and the River Niger

1085. The Heads of State and Government expressed *serious concern* over the phenomenal drying-up of Lake Chad and the shrinking of the River Niger, largely due to climate change and rapidly growing population, thereby posing serious danger to biodiversity, as well as threatening food security and the livelihood of the peoples living within the vicinities of the Lake and the River in the West and Central African sub-regions. They acknowledged the concerted efforts by the affected countries to reverse the trend and redress the challenges posed, and therefore called on the international community and development partners to intensify their support, through concrete financial and technical assistance, for the collaborative frameworks of action by the affected countries, aimed at rescuing Lake Chad and River Niger.

Energy

1086. The Heads of State and Government expressed *their concern* that about 1.2 billion people worldwide do not have access to energy services, and underlined the importance of access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development. They emphasized the need to diversify energy by developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, including fossil fuel technologies and renewable energy technologies, and their transfer to developing countries on concessional terms in order to promote sustainable energy systems with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply, recognizing the role of national initiatives and priorities and voluntary targets, where they exist, and ensuring that energy policies are supportive to developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty, and regularly evaluate available data to review progress to this end. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the celebration of 2012 as the "International Year of Sustainable Energy for All", as part of the UN SG Initiative on Sustainable Energy for All. The Heads of State and Government further *urged* developed countries to honor their commitments made to developing countries in this regard in the various international for a.

1087. The Heads of State and Government took *note of* the UN General Assembly's adoption of Resolution 74/225, 75/221, 76/210 and 77/170 on Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and in this regard commended the Republic of Iraq for undertaking the role of facilitator, that lead to consensual outcomes, for four years in a row.

1088. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* that means of implementation must be significantly strengthened, to enable decisive action and focusing in particular on additional finance and investment in line with target 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and agrees that, without a strong push on innovation, transfer of new technologies, capacity-building and quality data, global efforts to achieve Goal 7 are bound to fail.

1089. The Heads of State and Government stressed *the importance* of enhancing international Cooperation through partnership in all forms of energy including clean and renewable Energy. They *called upon* the developed countries to transfer more efficient and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, and for the United Nations to promote and facilitate this.

1090. The Heads of State and Government emphasized *the need* to accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy

conservation technologies, new and renewable energy technologies as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the need for shaping the comprehensive United Nations energy agenda with a focus on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on eradicating poverty, elaboration and adoption by the General Assembly of recommendations, including those related to the global intellectual property rights system, that facilitate dissemination, deployment and transfer of advanced energy technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as the establishment of an international center for the transfer of advanced energy technologies, a database of advanced energy technologies and a fully supported multilateral fund to finance development, transfer and application of advanced energy technologies as well as capacity building. The Heads of State and Government called for effective international measures to develop, transfer, disseminate and deploy such technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Moreover, The Heads of State and Government *encouraged* accelerating enhanced cooperation on the above matters in the United Nations among UN Member States and other relevant international and regional stakeholders.

1091. The Heads of State and Government stressed that sustainable, just and climate resilient clean energy transition will be important pillars of global energy security and prosperity in coming decades. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of North-South and South-South dialogue in imperative topics related to sustainable, just and climate resilient clean energy transition, including, but not limited to de-carbonization, low-carbon development, renewables, transitional fuel/energy, energy efficiency, clean energy investments and technology transfer on preferential terms, financing energy transitions and carbon finance mechanisms. The Heads of State and Government recalled that current energy crisis is an obvious guidance that abandoning traditional energy and drastic cuts in investments in traditional energy sectors is not a way to reach energy transition goals and the energy transition process in the developing countries needs to be balanced, just and equitable with due consideration given to different national circumstances, economic linkages and respective capabilities.

1092. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the choice of the United Arab Emirates as the headquarters of the Agency. They also recalled with appreciation the thirteenth session of the Assembly that took place from 13 to 15 January 2023 in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates. They also encouraged Member States of NAM, and other countries who have not yet done so to consider joining IRENA. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their aspiration to see IRENA in the near future playing an important and positive role towards promoting the sustainable use of different forms of renewable energy. In this context, The Heads of State and Government welcomed IRENA's participation in the work of the United Nations General Assembly as Observer Organization.

1093. The Heads of State and Government *called* for promotion of public and private investment in energy infrastructure, and clean energy technologies including carbon capture and storages and energy storages with a view to substantially increasing the share of renewable energy. They also called for enhancement of cooperation to expand energy infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying affordable, reliable, modern and sustainable energy services to all developing countries.

1094. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the establishment of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a coalition of solar resource rich countries, and welcomed its First International Summit, held on 11 March 2018, in New Delhi, India. They noted that the transformation of the world's energy systems is being accelerated by advances in technology, rapid declines in the cost of renewable energy, deployment of least-cost decentralized solutions, policy support, new business models and sharing of best practices. In this regard, they recognized the Alliance as a tangible contribution to the ongoing collective efforts by the international community to achieve SDG7 by promoting the use of renewable energy towards Climate Action and to facilitate universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* that the membership of the ISA has now been opened to all Member countries of the United Nations and also *encouraged* Member states of NAM, and other countries, which have not yet done so, to consider joining the ISA.

1095. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas.

1096. The Heads of State and Government noted the challenges to development that exist for a number of member states of the Movement in relation to the international energy market. They *also took note* of the various and varied complex destabilizing factors in the energy market and appreciated the efforts of NAM countries to stabilize it for the benefit of all. In this context, they supported efforts to improve the functioning, transparency and information about energy markets with respect to both supply and demand, as well as the reduction in the offer of fossil crude oil by member States of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Non-OPEC, with the aim of achieving greater stability and predictability in the interest of both energy producing and consuming states. They *agreed* to enhance cooperation with a view to improving access to all environmentally safe and clean energy sources including alternative sources of energy by developing countries. They *underscored* the need for increased North-South collaboration as well as continued South-South Cooperation as part of a long-term strategy towards sustainable development. They *also underscored* the sovereign right of States over their energy resources and the energy transportation routes and transmission lines in state territory. They *welcomed* the progress of the dialogue between energy producing and consuming countries, in particular, within the International Energy Forum (IEF) and supported all efforts to strengthen such dialogue. They recalled with appreciation the signing of the Charter of the IEF in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, February 2011.

Disaster Risk Reduction

1097. The Heads of State and Government *called for* disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters to be addressed with a renewed sense of urgency in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and poverty eradication and to be integrated into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels and considered within relevant future frameworks, while recognizing that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and sustainable development cannot be achieved without adequate investment in disaster risk reduction.

1098. The Heads of State and Government also *emphasized* the responsibility of all States to undertake disaster risk reduction, including through preparedness, as well as response and early recovery efforts, in order to minimize the impact of natural disasters and build community resilience towards natural disasters, and recognized the importance of international cooperation, including through North-South cooperation complemented by South-South, as well as triangular cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships, in support of the efforts of affected countries which may have limited capacities and resources in this regard.

1099. The Heads of State and Government expressed their concern over the human suffering and economic impact caused by the natural disasters throughout the world, in particular by countries grappling with existing vulnerabilities such as African countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries, least developed countries, as well as middle income countries facing specific challenges. They encouraged the international community, national authorities, private sector, as appropriate, and non-governmental organizations, to promote closer cooperation to reduce the impact of natural disasters by strengthening disaster risk reduction, mitigation and preparedness and disaster mitigation such as through risk mapping, early warning systems and exchange of information at all levels.

1100. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their deep concern that Unilateral Coercive Measures and unilateral economic, financial or trade measures impede the development of targeted countries' multi-hazard early warning systems and their ability to implement disaster preparedness, response and recovery from natural disasters and heavily increase the scale of economic and human losses generated by natural disasters on aforementioned countries and firmly urged for the removal of such restrictions, especially during natural disasters.

1101. The Heads of State and Government invited governments at all levels as well as relevant sub-regional, regional and international organizations to commit to adequate, timely and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to enhance the resilience of cities and communities to disasters, according to their own circumstances and capacities. In particular, The Heads of State and Government encouraged donors and the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of disaster risk reduction in developing countries, through inter alia, the exchange of best practices, technology transfer to developing countries on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction, access to relevant data and information, the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the promotion of community participation and ownership through community-based disaster risk management approaches.

1102. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the initiative launched by the Algerian President, Mr. Abdelmajid Tebboune, and endorsed by the AU Conference of Heads of State and Government, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in May 2022, aimed to create an African natural disaster response mechanism.

1103. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the importance of stronger interlinkages among disaster risk reduction, recovery, and long-term development planning, and called for more coordinated and comprehensive strategies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation considerations into public and private investment, decision-making and the planning of humanitarian and development actions, in order to reduce risk, increase resilience and provide a smoother transition between relief, recover and development.

1104. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their deep concern that disaster-related financing remains focused on reactive measures, and stressed the importance of prioritizing and enhancing the allocation of and access to sustainable and predictable financing for global disaster risk reduction, including new and innovative mechanisms and the transfer of technology to developing countries on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms and taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities to build resilient health, water, food, transport, energy, and digital connectivity systems.

1105. The Heads of State and Government encouraged the United Nations System to make every effort to accelerate its full integration and mainstreaming of disaster risk-reduction into all its programmes and activities to ensure that it contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Furthermore, The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the importance of the work of the United Nations in disaster risk reduction and the growing demands on the Secretariat of the Strategy and the need for increased, timely, stable and predictable resources for the implementation of the Strategy; and in this regard requested that the Secretary-General considers how best to support implementation of the disaster risk reduction strategy taking into account the important role played by the Secretariat of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), with a view to ensuring adequate resources for the operationalization of the Strategy by the Secretariat. In this regard, they took note of the report on the Main Findings and Recommendations of the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Report of the Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

1106. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the adoption of the outcome documents of the Third International World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, from 13-18 March 2015, and emphasized the importance of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;

1106.1 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, held from 18-19 May 2023, to assess progress on integrating disaster risk reduction into policies, programmes, and investments at all levels, identify good, gaps and challenges and accelerate the path to achieving the goal of the Sendai Framework and its seven global targets by 2030. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government affirmed their commitment to scale up efforts towards the full and timely implementation of the Sendai Framework, including its guiding principles and four priorities for action, and political declaration adopted at the High-Level Meeting.

1106.2 The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the convening of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held on 3-6 July 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on the main theme Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development.

1106.3 The Heads of State and Government *took note* of the efforts made by UNESCO and its Member States to mobilize efforts and respond to Haiti's post-disaster situation, resulting from Hurricane Matthew, within its spheres of competence, through the adoption of the decision entitled "Plan of Action to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation: Together for Haiti" (201EX/34; 201EX/DG.INF; 201EX/41), and hopes that similar measures be taken to respond to these phenomena in other Small Island Developing States (SIDSs) affected by natural disasters.

Climate Change

1107. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our times, threatening not only the development prospects of developing countries and their achievement of sustainable development, but also the very existence and survival of countries and societies, and expressed profound concern that emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally. They expressed concern about the increased adverse impacts of climate change particularly on developing countries, which are severely undermining their efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. The Heads of State and Government also underscored the fact that developing countries continue to suffer the most from the adverse impacts of climate change, and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events including floods, droughts, hurricanes and sand and dust storms, as well as the impact of response measures, even though they are the least responsible for climate change.

1108. The Heads of State and Government affirmed that the impacts of climate change are an obstacle for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication and for enabling economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner, therefore they highlighted that the vulnerability of countries to the impacts of climate change challenges, the losses and damage related to these impacts impedes the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

1109. The Heads of State and Government *urged for* cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, taking into consideration that the historical responsibilities of developed countries warrants that they take the lead in addressing this challenge in accordance with UNFCCC principles and provisions, particularly in accordance with the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, as well as social and economic conditions recognizing the development priorities of developing countries. In this regard, they reiterated that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and remains the central multilateral

framework for cooperative action to address climate change. They further stressed that the process of work under the UNFCCC must be open, party-driven, inclusive and transparent and strengthen multilateralism through concrete decisions on remaining work, to assist implementation and enhance climate action and ambition. In this regard, they stressed that the international response to climate change must fully respect the principles, provisions and ultimate objective of the Convention and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention, in particular the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

1110. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the UN General Assembly's adoption of resolution – 78/153, titled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind", as well as the adoption of resolution 76/300 entitled, "The Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment".

1111. The Heads of State and Government *affirmed* that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. In this regard, they stressed that the international response to climate change must fully respect the principles, provisions and ultimate objective of the Convention, in particular the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

1112. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the entering into force of the Paris Agreement, on 4 November 2016, adopted on 12 December 2015, in the framework of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) of the UNFCCC, held in Paris in 2015. The Heads of State and Government also *acknowledged* that the aforementioned Agreement constitutes the broadest consensus of the international community to address climate change.

1113. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the outcome to the first Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement, finalized at COP28 held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, which provided a balanced reflection of the progress made, acknowledged implementation gaps and set out future directions for climate action) in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, while recognizing the concerns of developing countries, especially the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances.

1114. The Heads of State and Government *congratulated* the presidency of Morocco and Fiji of the 22nd and 23rd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016, and in Bonn, Germany, in November 2017, the Presidency of the United Arab Emirates and the Arab Republic of Egypt of 28th and 27th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC held in Dubai in December 2023 and Sharm el- Sheikh in November 2022 respectively, for hosting successful, transparent and inclusive conferences. They also welcomed the election of the Republic of Azerbaijan as the host of the next COP 29 to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024.

1115. The Heads of State and Government congratulated Morocco for hosting the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP22), and the United Arab Emirates for hosting the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP28), the 18th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and the 5th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement. They welcomed the momentum created by the COP22, subsequent COPs and COP28 favoring the highest political and action-oriented commitment to combat climate change, as a matter of urgent priority.

1116. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* in this regard the adoption, during COP22 High-Level Segment, of the "Marrakech Action Proclamation for our climate and sustainable development" which calls, in particular, for further climate action and support, well in advance of 2020, taking into account the specific needs and special circumstances of

developing countries, the Least Developed Countries and those particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and COP28 of the UAE Consensus, comprised of the outcome of the first Global Stocktake, the Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience, the Just Transition Work Programme and the Mitigation Work Programme.

1117. The Heads of State and Government noted *with appreciation* the initiative of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI of Morocco to convene the “Africa Summit for Action”, held on the sidelines of the COP22 resulting in the establishment of three Climate Commissions dedicated respectively to the Sahel Region - chaired by the Republic of the Niger, the Congo Basin Region - chaired by the Republic of Congo, and the Island States - chaired by the Republic of Seychelles. The Heads of State and Government further welcomed the efforts of members of the Commissions and partners to achieve their effective operationalization.

1118. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the work undertaken under the auspices of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, and encourages non-party stakeholders to scale up their efforts to address and respond to climate change.

1119. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that developed countries’ commitments to provide developing countries with financing and the transfer of technology for climate change should be carried out under the UNFCCC and its Conference of the Parties. The Heads of State and Government noted with deep regret that the goal of developed countries to mobilize jointly 100 billion United States dollars per year by 2020 in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation has not yet been met. They urged developed countries to fully deliver on the USD 100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025, called for the full capitalization of the Green Climate Fund during the second replenishment cycle. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the initiation of deliberations on a new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance from a floor of USD 100 billion per year by 2025, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries and looks forward to the transition to a mode of work to enable the development of a draft negotiating text for consideration and approval at COP29 on the NCQG.

1120. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the convening of the twenty seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, in Sharm Elsheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022. The Heads of State and Government urged the implementation of its decisions, including the Sharm El-Sheikh Implementation Plan.

1121. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the decision adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, to establish new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to loss and damage, including establishing a fund.

1122. The Heads of State and Government *further welcomed* with appreciation the adoption during COP28 of the Decision on the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund and in this regard, *acknowledged* the financial contributions and pledges immediately announced and *further encouraged* the efforts for making the fund operative, accessible and functional for all developing countries.

1123. The Heads of State and Government *look forward* to the convening of the twenty ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the add nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement scheduled to take place in , Baku , Azerbaijan from November 11-22 November 2024

1124. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the importance of transition to sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production for efforts to address climate change, as also reflected in the Paris Agreement and the COP27 cover decision (Sharm El Sheikh Implementation Plan) and underlined that environment-friendly behaviours and attitudes of individuals and communities, when counted on a mass scale, can have a large impact on the environment and climate action. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government welcomed the launch of global Mission of Lifestyle For Environment (LiFE) by India in October 2022 in the presence of United Nations Secretary General.

1125. The Heads of State and Government affirmed that combating the effects of climate change is necessary to achieve sustainable development, including poverty eradication and reducing inequalities, as stated in the IPCC Special Report.

1126. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the call for the creation of an African Fund for climate change, disasters, initiated by the Algerian President, H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, and endorsed by the 1144 meeting of the PSC, held at the level of Heads of State and Government on 18 October 2022.

1127. The Heads of State and Government *noted* with concern the findings contained in the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)²⁸, as well as the findings from Sixth Assessment Report.

1128. The Heads of State and Government further *noted* with concern the findings contained in the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty (IPCC Special Report), including that the scientific evidence is unequivocal that the climate system is warming and that further warming will bring long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems. Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions which, together with adaptation, can limit climate change risks.

1129. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need to urgently close the ambition gap including climate financial gap, and expressed their concern with the lack of fulfillment of commitments by developed countries under the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention. In addressing this gap, focus must not only be limited to mitigation but also include gaps relating to adaptation, finance, technology and support for capacity building, as well as for addressing climate related losses and damages. They emphasized the importance of updating and implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement in line with the best available science, principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and underscored that developed countries must take robust and ambitious mitigation commitments, with ambitious quantitative emissions limitation reduction targets, as required by science and mandated by the Convention. The Heads of State and Government further encouraged all parties to the Kyoto Protocol to ratify and implement the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

1130. The Heads of State and Government *underscored* with appreciation the decision 2/CP.20 on the “Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impact”, and welcomed the progress made on that matter in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, the decision at COP28 in Dubai, UAE, on the host of the Secretariat of the Santiago Network. They invited developed countries Parties to provide developing country Parties with finance, technology and

²⁸ Global Warming of 1.5 °C, Climate Change and Land: An IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems and The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

capacity-building, in accordance with decision 1/CP.16 and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

1131. The Heads of State and Government *underscored* the importance of ensuring compliance of all pre-2020 commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention, including those towards developing countries regarding financing.

1132. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the Climate Ambition Summit by the Secretary-General of the United Nations during the High-level week of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2023-

1133. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that urgent measures are needed to support adaptation, nationally appropriate mitigation actions and the nationally determined contributions undertaken by developing countries, in accordance with their national capabilities and circumstances as well as the level of support they are receiving, and to strengthen cooperation at the global level to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries parties arising from the adverse effects of climate change and/or the impact of the implementation of response measures, especially on the countries referred to in Article 4.8 of the UNFCCC.

1134. The Heads of State and Government encouraged the intensification of South-South cooperation to support developing countries in addressing the impacts of climate change through technical cooperation and capacity building programs.

1135. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* that oceans and coasts provide valuable resources and services to support humankind and that the sustainable use of marine ecosystems will enhance global food security and increase resilience to climate change for present and future generations; they further emphasized the need to develop comprehensive adaptation measure to address climate related impacts on oceans and coasts, including through greater capacity building, enhanced scientific monitoring activities and to promote environmentally sound policies for integrated coastal and ocean management.

Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms²⁹

1136. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, as follows:

1136.1 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the significant importance the Movement attaches to the promotion and protection of human rights and commitment to fulfil obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the UN Charter, other core International Human Rights instruments, as appropriate, and international law. They further reaffirmed that human rights, including the right to development, are universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that human rights issues must be addressed within the global context through a constructive, non-confrontational, non-politicized and non-selective dialogue-based approach, in a fair and equal manner, with objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, impartiality, non-selectivity and transparency as the guiding principles, taking into account the political, historical, social, religious and cultural particularities of each country. In this regard, they *reiterated* the Movement's dismay and unequivocal condemnation of gross and systematic violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and situations that constitute serious

²⁹ This section should be read in conjunction with the section on Democracy under Chapter I of the document

obstacles to their full enjoyment, as well as violent acts and activities that infringe upon their full enjoyment;

1136.2 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and urged UN Member States to redouble their efforts in fulfilling their duty to promote and protect all human rights, particularly the right to development.

1136.3 The Heads of State and Government also *reaffirmed* their opposition to all unilateral coercive measures, including those measures used as tools for political or economic and financial pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, which violates the Charter of the United Nations, rules and principles of international law. They *reaffirmed* that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development. The Heads of State and Government further *expressed* their concern at the continued imposition of such measures which hinder the well-being of population of the affected countries and that create obstacles to the full realization of their human rights;

1136.4 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 45/5 to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and invited the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Human Rights Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights continue to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures;

1136.5 The Heads of State and Government further *reaffirmed* that, bearing in mind the UN Charter, economic and financial sanctions always have a negative impact on the rights recognized in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in particular the realization of the right to development. They often cause significant disruption in the distribution of food, pharmaceuticals and sanitation supplies, jeopardize the quality of food and the availability of clean drinking water, severely interfere with the functioning of basic health and education systems, and undermine the right to work, and they are serious obstacles to development of the targeted States;

1136.6 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of resolution A/HRC/40/3 through which the Human Rights Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize a biennial panel discussion on the impact of unilateral coercive measures and over-compliance on the right to development and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. They also welcomed the last biennial panel entitled “the impact of Unilateral coercive measures and over compliance on the right to development and the achievement of the sustainable development goals” held on 14th September 2023 during the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

1136.7 The Heads of State and Government *expressed concern* that defamation of religions is being wrongly justified, on the ground of the right to freedom of expression, neglecting the restrictions clearly articulated in the relevant human rights instruments including paragraph 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as paragraph 3 of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), including in this regard the relevant recommendations of the treaty bodies, and stressed the need for all States to continue international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions, and emphasizing that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion and belief. They reaffirmed the obligation of all States Parties to the Covenant under article 20 which

prohibits the advocacy of racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. They also expressed their support to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the Right to freedom of opinion and expression as revised by the HRC resolution 7/36.

1136.8 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the freedom of thought, expression and dissemination of ideas and information, are fundamental for the exercise of democracy. They further expressed that these freedoms should be exercised with responsibility in a way of respecting national dignity and the ideas and sentiment of other countries' people in accordance with the relevant national legislative framework, and relevant International human rights instruments.

1136.9 The Heads of State and Government *affirmed* that greater efforts should be made to ensure that treaty bodies' work is independent, more effective, objective, transparent and accountable, as well as to ensure a more balanced membership therein, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation, gender balance, representation of different legal systems as well as ensuring that members nominated to serve with the treaty bodies will serve in their personal capacity, of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality, and possess competence in the field of human rights.

1136.10 The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption by the UN General Assembly of resolution 66/254 on 23 February 2012 establishing an open-ended intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system in New York and took note of the conclusion of the process through the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution 68/268 and also expressed appreciation for the work of Indonesia and Tunisia as the co-facilitators of the process;

1136.11 The Heads of State and Government took *note* the ongoing process of the consideration of the state of the human rights treaty body system, and took note of the 2020 report A/75/601 of the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Morocco and Switzerland to the United Nations, to the President of the General Assembly;

1136.12 The Heads of State and Government *expressed* concern at the non-representation and under-representation of Non-Aligned Countries in the staffing of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), membership of the treaty bodies as well as special procedures of the HRC, and stressed reiterated the need for ensuring the adequate representation of NAM countries in such treaty bodies and human rights procedures and mechanisms on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution;

1136.13 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should discharge his duties on the basis of impartiality; in compliance with the mandate established under the UNGA Resolution 48/141, including reporting annually to the General Assembly, the universal organ of the United Nations;

1136.14 The Heads of State and Government took *note* of the appointment of new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and encouraged him, in the fulfilment of the mandate as established in UNGA resolution 48/141, to take into account the existing challenges and, to exercise objectivity, non-selectivity and impartiality, to avoid selectivity and targeting Member States and to favour constructive dialogue and cooperation;

1136.15 The Heads of State and Government *re-emphasized* that the exploitation and the use of human rights as an instrument for political purposes, including selective targeting of individual Countries for extraneous considerations, which is contrary to the Founding Principles of the Movement and the UN Charter, should be prohibited. They urged that, in the discussion on human rights, adequate attention be given to the issues of poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, instability and foreign occupation that engender social

and economic exclusion and violation of human dignity and human rights, which cannot be divorced from any meaningful discussion relating to human rights;

1136.16 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that democracy and good governance at the national and international levels, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Adoption, for any cause or consideration, of coercive unilateral measures, rules and policies against the developing countries constitute flagrant violations of the basic rights of their populations;

1136.17 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that hunger constitutes a violation of human dignity and called for urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination. They also reaffirmed the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food consistent with the right to food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the importance of food security for the realization of the right to food for all. They also stressed that it is essential for states to promote efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimension and hunger (SDGs 1 and 2);

1136.18 The Heads of State and Government expressed deep concern at the negative impact of extraterritorial surveillance and/or interception of communications, as well as the collection of personal data, in particular when carried out on a mass scale, may have on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights;

1136.19 The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the adoption of resolution HRC/28/16 by the Human Rights Council on the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy with the purpose of identifying best practices on the right to privacy and to make recommendations to ensure its promotion and protection, including with a view to particular challenges arising in the digital age, and *took note of* the adoption of resolution 46/16 by the Human Rights Council extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur with the studying trends, developments and challenges in relation to the right to privacy, identifying possible obstacles to its promotion and protection, as well as making recommendations to the Human Rights Council in that regard;

1136.20 The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the recommendation to States contained in the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, adopted by consensus in June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, to consider adopting national action plans to improve the promotion and protection of human rights, and encouraged Non-Aligned Countries to adopt such plans as framework for strengthening their national ownership in this field. They welcomed the adoption by the Human Rights Council of resolution A/HRC/52/19 on 03 April 2023 commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and its Programme of Action. In this context, and bearing in mind, the Heads of State and Government invited NAM Member States to consider the possibility of organizing a special event to commemorate the occasion;

1136.21 The Heads of State and Government recognized that Member States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as to ensure respect, protection, fulfillment and restoration of their human rights;

1136.22 The Heads of State and Government noted that Member States also have the responsibility to pursue the achievement of peace in their territories and that the purpose of peace must be considered as an essential step towards the guarantee and protection of Human Rights;

1136.23 The Heads of State and Government *renewed* their concern at the gross violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to life and the right to development, resulting from terrorism and violent extremism including those perpetrated by foreign occupying powers in territories under foreign occupation, and reiterated their condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions;

1136.24. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* their growing concern and dismay at the flagrant disregard for life and the accompanying wanton destruction of property, as recently evidenced in Occupied Palestinian Territory and other occupied Arab territories, including the occupied Syrian Golan and Lebanon. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, whereby it decided to include the “Human Rights Situation in Occupied Palestinian Territory and other occupied Arab territories” as a permanent agenda item in the Council;

1136.25 The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the resolutions adopted at the regular and Special sessions of the Human Rights Council and the Resumed Tenth Emergency Special session of the General Assembly on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip;

1136.26 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the right of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation to struggle for national liberation and self-determination;

1136.27 The Heads of State and Government reiterated the need for efforts to further strengthen and promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and for the establishment of democratic institutions and sound economic policies responsive to the needs of the people. In this context, they *reiterated* the need for the core principles, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international co-operation, including partnership and commitments in the international financial, monetary and trading systems, and full and effective participation of developing countries in decision-making and norm setting;

1137.28 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of HRC resolution 52/13, on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights presented by Azerbaijan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, adopted at the 55th meeting of the HRC, on 3 April 2023;

1137.29 The Heads of State and Government *underscored* the importance of cooperation between states in the provision of advisory services, technical assistance and capacity building activities in the field of human rights, which must be provided upon request, in consultation with and with the consent of the Member States concerned;

1136.30 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the 16th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held in New York from 13-15 June 2023 under the presidency of the Republic of Tunisia, expressed their commitment to promote the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis for persons with disabilities. The Heads of State and Government *invited* all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol;

1136.31 The Heads of State and Government reiterated the recognition of persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development and *acknowledged* their contribution to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as to the implementation of

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals;

1136.32 The Heads of State and Government thanked with appreciation the work of Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, appointed on 20 June 2017, and look forward to continue supporting her mandate, which represents a substantive contribution to the United Nations ongoing efforts towards a more inclusive society for persons with disabilities;

1136.33 The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the WIPO Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled signed in Marrakesh in 27 June 2013;

1136.34 The Heads of State and Government expressed *deep concern* over the "Common Standards and Procedures for returning illegally-staying Third-Country Nationals", known as the return directive, adopted by the European Parliament on June 18, 2008. They emphasized the view that this Directive constitutes a serious violation of relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant ILO conventions. They also *underscored* the discriminatory nature of this Directive, which has the effect of criminalizing migration and exacerbating social tensions, racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and entail mistreatment of migrants and their families;

1136.35 The Heads of State and Government *underscored* the need for all States to address the issue of international migration through a cooperative dialogue on an equal footing, and in this regard, strongly urged the European Union and its member States to refrain from taking any type of measures that stigmatize certain groups or individuals, including third-country nationals and their families and invite all States to consider signing and ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families;

1136.36 The Heads of State and Government *expressed* concern at legislation and its interpretation, practices and measures adopted by some States, as well as legislative initiatives, that may lead to a discriminatory treatment and restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants contrary to their international commitments under relevant Conventions and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

1136.37 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of the resolution 73/328 by the UN General Assembly, on 25th July 2019, on "Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in countering hate speech", that recognizes the importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development, as well as the adoption of resolution 75/309 by the UN General Assembly on 21 July 2020, on "Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in countering hate speech", that proclaims 18 June as the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, to be observed annually;

1136.38 The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of Resolution 77/318 by the UN General Assembly, on 25th July 2023, on "Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in countering hate speech", that strongly deplores all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such acts directed against their religious symbols, holy books, homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centers or places of worship, as well as all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law;

1136.39 The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* the manifestations and acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urged States to apply and, where needed, reinforce the existing laws when xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants, in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit xenophobic and racist acts;

1136.40 The Heads of State and Government also *reaffirmed* the duty of States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women, and children, regardless of their immigration status, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international instruments to which they are party;

1136.41 The Heads of State and Government *urged* States, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to address the irregular migration of children, including adolescents, from a human rights and a humanitarian perspective, taking into account the principle of the best interest of the child while promoting and protecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and *called upon* States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to adopt measures to give effect to the rights enshrined therein;

1136.42 The Heads of State and Government expressed *grave concern* at the increasing cases of human rights violations and abuses by some Transnational Corporations and reiterated the need to carry out due diligence and to ensure that appropriate protection, justice, and remedies are provided to the victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from the activities of transnational corporations;

1136.43 The Heads of State and Government emphasized that transnational corporations have a responsibility to respect all human rights and recognized that transnational corporations should refrain from violating human rights and fundamental freedoms;

1137. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 26/9 to establish an open ended intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Respect to Human Rights, whose mandate is to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate the activities of transnational corporations and business enterprises, which held its ninth session in Geneva from 17 to 21 April 2023.

1138. The Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of Human Rights Education and training for the promotion and protection of human rights, and in this regard, welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 66/137 pertaining to the United Nations declaration on human rights education and training.

1139. The Heads of State and Government took note with appreciation of the adoption of the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by the General Assembly, as a positive and important step towards realizing equal treatment of all human rights.

1140. The Heads of State and Government highly appreciated the continued visibility and active engagement of the Movement during the Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan in international human rights platforms, in particular in the Human Rights Council, including through ensuring the submission and promotion of traditional NAM initiatives.

1141. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, The Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures and initiatives, among others, to:

1141.1 Promote and protect all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms for all peoples, in particular the right to development, and to provide an effective framework thereof including remedies to redress grievances on or violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the relevant Founding Principles of the Movement, the UN Charter and international human rights instruments, consistent with the obligations of States regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems;

1141.2 Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights;

1141.3 Promote the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the effective participation of developing countries in international decision-making;

1141.4 Urge developed countries to engage in effective partnerships such as the NEPAD and other similar initiatives with the developing countries, particularly the LDCs, for the purposes of the realization of their right to development including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

1141.5 Stress adherence to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and to the Founding Principles of the Movement, and oppose and condemn selectivity and double standards in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as all attempts to exploit or use human rights as an instrument for political purposes;

1141.6 Reaffirm the need to preserve the mechanism of Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council from politicization and double standards, and to prevent its misuse and manipulation in order to preserve the cooperative approach in the Human Rights Council;

1141.7 Maintain and strengthen the presence of the Non-Aligned Movement by advancing its position during the deliberations taking place in the main international fora, particularly the Human Rights Council, the ECOSOC, and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly as a contribution to the enhancement of the coordination and cooperation among the abovementioned UN entities in the promotion and protection of all human rights;

1141.8 Update and introduce at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly and at the Human Rights Council, as appropriate, draft resolutions on: the Right to Development; the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights; the promotion of the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, human rights and cultural diversity, and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, and consider sponsoring and introducing other initiatives that promote respect for the principled positions of the Movement in this field of the international cooperation;

1141.9 Promote and protect all universally recognized human rights, in particular the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and as an integral part of all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms as it was highlighted in the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on 22 September 2016 to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development and the High-level meeting of the Human Rights Council on 27-28 February 2023 to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development. In this regard, support the convening of a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 2026 to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development;

1141.10 Reaffirm the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone as set out in the UN Millennium Declaration, in the UN Declaration on the Right to Development and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and give due

consideration to the negative impact of unilateral economic and financial coercive measures on the realization of the right to development;

1141.11 Urge all States to ensure greater protection for their populations in combating terrorism and transnational crimes, and in this regard, further urge all States to ensure that their national laws or legislations particularly concerning the combat against terrorism do not limit individual rights and that these are not discriminatory or xenophobic;

1141.12 Urge all States to ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism, including the use of armed drones, complies with their obligations under UN Charter, international law, in particular international human rights, refugees and humanitarian law; in particular, the principles of distinction and proportionality;

1141.13 Encouraged States, while countering terrorism, to undertake prompt, independent and impartial fact-finding inquiries whenever there are plausible indications of possible breaches to their obligations under international human rights law, with a view to ensuring accountability;

1141.14 Strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level, urge all States to undertake at the national level necessary policy formulation and institute measures required for the implementation of the right to development as a fundamental human right, and further urge all States to expand and deepen mutually benefiting cooperation with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, in the context of promoting an effective international co-operation for the realization of the right to development, bearing in mind that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level as well as equitable economic relations and a favorable economic environment at the international level;

1141.15 Urge the UN human rights machinery to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority, including through the elaboration of a Convention on the Right to Development by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, taking into account the recommendations of relevant initiatives;³⁰

1141.16 Propose and work towards the convening of a United Nations-sponsored High-Level International Conference on the Right to Development;

1141.17 Mainstream the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the UN and its specialized agencies, programmes and funds as well as in policies and strategies of the international financial and multilateral trading systems, taking into account in this regard that the core principles of the international economic, commercial and financial spheres, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international cooperation, including effective partnerships for development, are indispensable in achieving the right to development and preventing discriminatory treatment to the issues of concern to the developing countries arising out of political or other non-economic considerations;

1141.18 Advance the common positions and improve the coordination of the Movement at the relevant inter-governmental fora, in particular the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as well as the Human Rights Council, with the aim of strengthening international co-operation and coordination in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

³⁰ The recommendations of relevant initiatives include the High-level Seminar on the Operationalization of the Right to Development (Geneva, February 2004) held under the framework of the Commission on Human Rights Working Group on the Right to Development, and the High-level Task Force on the Operationalization of the Right to Development, as well as the recommendations of the 8th session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development regarding the "roadmap", endorsed by the HRC through its Resolution 4/4, adopted by consensus in its 4th session

1141.19 To *consider* convening a NAM meeting on the issue of protecting the human rights of civilians in international armed conflict;

1141.20 Encourage the existing independent national human rights institutions, including Ombudsmen where they exist, to perform their constructive role, on the basis of impartiality and objectivity, in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in their Countries, and request in this context, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide greater assistance, upon request, by interested Governments in the establishment and operations of their national institutions. The Heads of State and Government also welcomed the adoption by consensus of the UN General Assembly resolution 72/186, entitled “The role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights”, and its subsequent resolutions 75/186, and 77/224, entitled “The role of Ombudsman and mediator institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance and the rule of law”.

1141.21 Call *upon* the NAM members Countries and the international community to support the objective and effective functioning of the Human Rights Council established as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the UN, and emphasize the strong need to ensure that the work of the Council will be devoid of any politicization, double standards and selectivity;

1141.22 Took note of the Egyptian initiative on the right to work and the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution HRC/RES/34/14 by consensus, and the inclusion of the promotion of sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all as a proposed stand-alone goal in the report of the Open Working Group on SDGs and also recognized the right of all individuals to enjoy a just and favorable work conditions;

1141.23 Defend and promote NAM positions in the context of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and to that end:

- a) Continue holding the meetings of NAM Labour Ministers within the framework of each International Labour Conference; and in this regard The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the Meeting of the NAM Ministers of Labour on the margins of the 108th session of the ILO on 17 June 2019;
- b) Continue to promote transparency and a more democratic participation of all actors in ILO mechanisms and procedures;

1142. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the participation of the Chair of the Coordinating Bureau in interactive dialogues with mandate-holders of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, within the framework of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, and encouraged that this practice be maintained, as a means to promote, defend and advance the Movement’s positions.

1143. The Heads of State and Government further *welcomed* the initiation by Azerbaijan, in its capacity as the Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement during 2019-2024, of a platform for dialogue between the NAM Member States and the Special Procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, which has been supported by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. They *called on* the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures to engage in informal dialogue with NAM Member States with a view to addressing their concerns, and *encouraged* the NAM Chairmanship to continue its efforts in maintaining and advancing this dialogue.

1144. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of resolution A/HRC/RES/45/4 and expressed their appreciation for the efforts by Mr. Livingstone

Sewanyana, Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order, and pledged their support in the fulfillment of his mandate.

1145. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of resolutions A/HRC/RES/27/21, A/HRC/RES/34/13 and A/HRC/RES/45/5 of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, they expressed their appreciation for the work being done and the ongoing efforts by Ms. Alena Douhan, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, and pledged their support in the fulfillment of her mandate.

1146. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of resolution A/HRC/RES/44/11 and expressed their appreciation for the endeavors of Mr. Obiora C. Okafor, Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, and pledged their support in the fulfillment of his mandate.

1147. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of resolution A/HRC/RES/49/8 of the Human Rights Council on the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which decided to convene a high-level meeting to celebrate this anniversary. They highly commended the efforts of the Azerbaijani NAM Chair in the organization of this event during the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council, which presented a significant opportunity to demonstrate and reiterate unequivocal commitment to the right to development, to recognize the high profile it deserves and to redouble efforts in its implementation.

1148. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* UN Member States to make clearly and loudly known the need to reinvigorate the implementation of the right to development as an inalienable human right. They *further called upon* the United Nations, its development-related agencies and its regional and country offices, as well as international financial institutions to mainstream the right to development into their policies and operational activities and multilateral trading frameworks.

1149. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of resolutions A/HRC/RES/33/14 and A/HRC/RES/51/7 of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, they expressed appreciation to Mr. Saad Alfarargi, the former Special Rapporteur on the right to development for his work and welcomed the appointment of Mr. Surya Deva as the new Special Rapporteur. They also expressed their appreciation to the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development for providing thematic expertise on the right to development and expressed their support in the fulfillment of the mandate.

1150. The Heads of State and Government expressed *their appreciation and support* to Mr. Zamir Akram, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development, for the work being carried out by the Working Group to operationalize the right to development.

1151. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 78/203 of 19th December 2023, and the HRC Resolution 54/18 of 12 October 2023, on the Right to Development, which included the submission to the UNGA of the draft International Covenant on the Right to Development for consideration, negotiation, and subsequent adoption. They agreed that members of NAM should actively engage in the intergovernmental process with the aim of the adoption of a legally binding instrument on the Right to Development as soon as possible. In this regard, they commended the efforts of Azerbaijani chairmanship and member states in reinvigorating the process at the HRC.

1152. The Heads of State and Government supported the work and the mandate of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIGWG) on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with respect to Human Rights in process of drafting the legally binding document, and invited NAM members to consider contributing to its finalization.

Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and Slavery

1153. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their condemnation of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the platforms and activities related thereto, which constitute serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as impede equal opportunity. They *reminded* the international community to preserve its recognition that slavery and slave trade, including trans-Atlantic slave trade, are crimes against humanity, and that the legacies of slavery, slave trade, colonialism, foreign occupation, alien domination, genocide, ethnic cleansing and other forms of servitude have manifested themselves in poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities for the developing world.

1154. The Heads of State and Government welcomed UN General Assembly resolutions related to the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and its consequences, as well as those related to the Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

1155. The Heads of State and Government *noted* the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 73/157 and condemned the glorification, in any form, of the Nazi movement, neo-Nazism and former members of the Waffen SS organization, including by erecting monuments and memorials and holding public demonstrations in the name of the glorification of the Nazi past, the Nazi movement and neo-Nazism, as well as by declaring or attempting to declare such members and those who fought against anti-Hitler coalition and collaborated with the Nazi movement participants in national liberation movement.

1156. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* further the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 65/239 and recalled the designation of 25 March as the annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and reaffirmed the importance of the programme of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery, relating to the diverse educational outreach strategy to increase awareness of and to educate future generations about the causes, consequences, lessons and legacy of the transatlantic slave trade and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice, and encouraged continued action in this regard. They commended the erection of a Permanent Memorial to the victims of slavery and the trans-Atlantic slave trade, to be prominently placed at the United Nations Headquarters. They also welcomed the establishment of a fund for this purpose, and expressed appreciation to those of its members that made contributions towards it.

1157. The Heads of State and Government expressed *grave concern* at the negative effects on human rights and development posed by contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons and at the increasing exposure of States to such crimes. They *reaffirmed* the need to work collectively to combat contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons.

1158. The Heads of State and Government expressed *dismay* at instances of religious and cultural prejudices, misunderstanding, intolerance and discrimination on the basis of religion or belief or different systems, which undermine the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and hinder the promotion of the culture of peace. Pluralism, tolerance, dialogue and understanding of religious and cultural diversity are essential for peace and harmony. Acts of prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, as well as racial, religious and sectarian profiling are affronts to human dignity and equality, and should be condemned. Respect for democracy and human rights and the promotion of understanding and tolerance by governments as well as between and among differing groups are central to the promotion and protection of human rights. They *reaffirmed* that States have the duty to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination in all forms and in full equality before the law.

1159. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the positive contribution made by the new information and communications technologies, including the internet, in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through rapid and wide-reaching communications and recognized the potential to increase the use of the new information and

communications technologies, including the internet, especially by national educational institutions, to create educational and awareness-raising networks and programs against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, both in and out of school, as well as the ability of the internet to promote universal respect for all human rights and fundamental freedom, including the right to development, and also respect for the diversities of political, economic, social, cultural and religious systems.

1160. The Heads of State and Government called *upon* States to initiate discussions aimed at proclaiming a United Nations decade for interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding, tolerance and cooperation for peace.

1161. In recalling the Movement's opposition to all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and expressing serious concern on the resurgence of contemporary forms of such abhorrent crimes in various parts of the world, the Heads of State and Government *commended* the ongoing progress made by States at the national, regional and international levels, focusing on the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. To this end, the Heads of State and Government *took note* of the latest report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and of the establishment of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement, and welcomed the establishment of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and the proclamation of 31 August as the International Day for People of African Descent and encouraged the Human Rights Council, through the Intergovernmental Working Group, to finalize the elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination.

1162. The Heads of State and Government acknowledged the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Culture (2013-2022), which the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, implemented in consultation with Member States to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue and to promote tolerance and mutual understanding.

1163. The Heads of State and Government *further acknowledged* the celebration of the 75 years of United Nations action against racism and racial discrimination and *recalled* the adoption of the political declaration by the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and program of action, and reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and program of action of 2001, and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference in 2009 and commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. In this regard, they reaffirmed the validity of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) as it was adopted at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001, as the instructive document which constitutes a solid foundation on the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

1164. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the call on developed countries, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as international financial institutions, to honor the commitments contained in Section IV of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action entitled "Provision of Effective Remedies, Recourse, Redress, and Other Measures at the National, Regional and International Levels".

1165. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need to address with greater resolve and political will all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in all spheres of life and in all parts of the world, including all those under foreign occupation.

1166. The Heads of State and Government noted the resolve of the Durban Review Conference to, as stipulated in art. 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, fully and effectively prohibit any advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence and implement it through all necessary legislative, policy and judicial measures.

1167. The Heads of State and Government *called on* all Member States, including those that did not participate at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001) as well as the Durban Review Conference (2009), to fully and effectively implement all the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference to fight the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

1168. The Heads of State and Government *called on* all Member States to devote the highest priority to educational programs that promote dialogue and tolerance among communities in order to curb the scourge of hate speech. They *stressed* in this regard international cooperation and initiatives that help promoting mutual understanding between communities.

1169. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 76/254 on “International Day to Combat Islamophobia”, which is to be celebrated every year on 15 March, and UN General Assembly resolution 75/200 proclaiming 4 February as the International Day of Human Fraternity.

International Humanitarian Law

1170. The Heads of State and Government urged that due priority should continue to be given to promoting knowledge of, respect for and observance of States Parties’ obligations assumed under international humanitarian law instruments, in particular those of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their 1977 Protocols, and encouraged States that have not yet done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to the two 1977 additional Protocols. In this regard, while taking into account the magnitude and persistence of the violations and breaches of international law, including international humanitarian law, being committed by Israel, the occupying power, in the occupied Palestinian territory, the Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the most recent Declaration adopted by the High Contracting Parties on 17 December 2014, which, *inter alia*, *called once again* on Israel, the occupying power, “to fully and effectively respect the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem”, and which *emphasized* that “all serious violations of international humanitarian law must be investigated and that all those responsible should be brought to justice”. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption by UN General Assembly of resolution 77/247 in which, referring to Article 65 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, it requested the Court for an advisory opinion in this regard.

1171. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* all parties to international armed conflict to redouble their efforts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the principles of precautions against the effects of attacks, proportionality and distinction, by, *inter alia*, prohibiting the targeting of civilian populations, civilian property and certain special property during an armed conflict, and obliging parties to any conflict to ensure general protection against dangers arising from military operations for civilian installations, hospitals, means of transportation and relief materials, and distribution of such relief materials.

1172. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the Movement’s condemnation of the increasing attacks on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and urged the Governments of UN Member States to ensure respect for the protection of the personnel of humanitarian organizations in conformity with the relevant international law. Humanitarian agencies and their personnel must respect the international humanitarian law and the laws of the countries they work in and the guiding principles of humanitarian assistance set forth in the

General Assembly resolution 46/182 and its annex and non-interference, as well as cultural, religious and other values of the population in the countries where they operate.

1173. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/31 on “Safety and Security of Humanitarian Personnel and Protection of United Nations Personnel”, and emphasized the specific obligations, under international humanitarian law, to respect and protect, in situations of armed conflict, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, and hospitals and other medical facilities, which must not be unlawfully attacked, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required.

1174. The Heads of State and Government strongly *condemned* the intentional destruction and looting of historic sites and cultural heritage by the so-called Da’esh in Iraq and Syria that are in breach of the international law and international humanitarian law.

1175. The Heads of State and Government further *condemned* the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, inter alia destruction of religious sites and artefacts, as well as the looting and smuggling of cultural property from archaeological sites, museums, libraries, archives, and other sites, in the context of armed conflict.

1176. The Heads of State and Government recalled the protection granted by international humanitarian law and relevant human rights instruments to persons captured in connection with international armed conflicts.

1177. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures, among others:

1178. Invite those States, which have not yet done so, to consider ratifying the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Additional Protocols;

1178.1 Urge States to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law, including as provided in the four Geneva Conventions, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and further urge the international community and the relevant organizations within the UN system to strengthen humanitarian assistance to civilians under foreign occupation.

1178.2 Stress that all detainees or persons captured in connection with international armed conflicts must be treated humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity granted by international humanitarian law and relevant human rights instruments.

Humanitarian Assistance

1179. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that the provision of humanitarian assistance must not be politicized and must be in full respect of the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as set forth in General Assembly resolution 46/182 and its annex, as well as the guiding principles of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as providing the guiding principles for the coordination of humanitarian assistance, and emphasized that all UN humanitarian entities and associated organizations must act in accordance with their respective mandates, international humanitarian law and national law. They further *reaffirmed* that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the UN Charter. In this context, they stressed that humanitarian assistance should be provided under the principle of request and consent of the affected country.

1180. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the Movement's commitment to enhance international cooperation to provide humanitarian assistance in full compliance with the UN Charter and mindful of the relevant UN resolutions, where applicable, in particular 46/182 and in this regard, they reiterated the rejection by the Movement of the so-called "right" of humanitarian intervention, which has no basis either in the UN Charter or in international law.

1181. The Heads of State and Government stressed their rejection to the manipulation of humanitarian assistance as a tool for the intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

1182. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance, noted in this regard the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees or mandated international bodies to do so.

1183. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that the affected state has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory, while underlining the need to avoid diversion of the humanitarian aid, and to ensure that the populations in need of humanitarian assistance are the sole beneficiaries of such aid.

1184. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirmed the need, in situations where military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with national law, international law, including humanitarian law, and in full respect of the principles set forth in General Assembly Resolution 46/182.

1185. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the need to respect international refugee law, preserve the civilian and humanitarian nature of the refugee camps, and called upon host States to ensure the demilitarization of refugee camps.

1186. The Heads of State and Government stressed that the affected State has the responsibility first and foremost in responding and assisting the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring in its territory. Furthermore, the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory.

1187. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the importance of the Non-Aligned Movement to coordinate its positions on humanitarian assistance, and in this regard they requested the Coordinating Bureau to operationalize the NAM Contact Group on humanitarian affairs as decided at the 14th NAM Summit in Havana in 2006 as well as to consider the establishment of a NAM Working Group on humanitarian assistance and to discuss, agree and determine the terms of reference of such a Group as soon as possible. The Heads of State and Government agreed on the importance of strengthening mechanisms to provide aid and assistance to affected member states of the Movement.

1188. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* UN Member States, in this regard, to comply fully with the provisions of the international humanitarian law, in particular as provided in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of victims of war, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and urges the international community and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen humanitarian and other assistance and support to civilians under foreign occupation.

1189. The Heads of State and Government *called upon* the international community to provide full support, including financial resources, for emergency humanitarian assistance at all levels and stressed the need to maintain the follow-up, oversight and review by the General Assembly of the activities undertaken by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to ensure its functioning according to the agreed principles contained in the relevant UN resolutions, in particular General Assembly Resolution 46/182. They reaffirmed the importance of the prompt allocation of CERF's resources as part of the emergency humanitarian assistance to the affected country.

1190. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, United Nations humanitarian entities must continue to work in close coordination and collaboration with national Governments and in line with national policies and programmes being implemented for the provision of assistance to affected populations. The Heads of State and Government also reaffirmed that the United Nations humanitarian entities must coordinate their work of providing humanitarian assistance to affected civilians living under foreign occupation in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

1191. The Heads of State and Government urged the need to enhance the level of cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the governments of the affected State, with a view to planning and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as sustainable rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

1192. The Heads of State and Government also *expressed their concerns* about the capacity and coordination limitation constraining the international humanitarian response system to the challenges posed by large magnitude of some of the most recent natural disasters.

1193. The Heads of State and Government further *encouraged* States to implement commitments related to assistance as well as sharing of experience and expertise, for developing countries, that are prone to natural disasters and for disaster-stricken states in disaster risk reduction and disaster response and recovery. The transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for disaster risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes.

1194. The Heads of State and Government expressed *their support* to provision of education on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian emergencies to all affected populations, including in order contributing to a smooth transition from relief to development.

1195. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance, including by addressing the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men in a comprehensive and consistent manner, and to take into account the needs of affected populations, including persons with disabilities and the older persons.

1196. The Heads of State and Government *requested* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response, including disaster preparedness and needs assessments, take into account the specific humanitarian needs of all components of the affected population, in particular girls, boys, women, older persons and persons with disabilities, including in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction, humanitarian and recovery programming and, as appropriate, post-humanitarian emergency reconstruction, and in this regard encourages efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming and emphasizes the importance of full participation of, in particular, women and persons with disabilities in decision-making processes related to humanitarian response.

Information and Communication Technology

1197. The Heads of State and Government reiterated *their conviction* that a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society based on information and communication technology could contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and address new challenges faced by humankind.

1198. The Heads of State and Government stressed that a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society contributes to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, and addresses new challenges faced by humankind. They also *underlined* the importance of removing barriers to bridging the digital divide, particularly those that hinder the full achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of the countries and the welfare of their people, in particular, in developing countries. Meanwhile, they further call for an end to the use of information and communication technologies, including social network, in contravention of international law and in detriment to the interests of the Member States. They underlined that States may, as appropriate, also consider ways and means with a view to making the private sector with extra territorial impacts, including platforms, accountable for their behaviour in the ICT environment.

1199. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that in order to transform the digital divide to digital opportunities, these activities should ensure the imperative of universal, inclusive and non-discriminatory access to information and knowledge related to ICT, and should result in supporting national efforts in developing countries in the area of building, improving and strengthening capacities to facilitate their genuine involvement in all aspects of the information society and knowledge economy. They *encouraged* all the States to contribute actively to ensuring that the Information Society is founded on and stimulates respect for gender equality and women empowerment, cultural identity, cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity, traditions and religions and ethical values.

1200. The Heads of State and Government *expressed concern* over the digital divide in access to ICT tools and broadband connectivity between developed and developing countries, which affects many economically and socially relevant applications in areas such as, inter alia, government, business, health and education, climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction and management, and further expressed concern with regard to the special challenges faced in the area of broadband connectivity by developing countries, especially those in unique circumstances such as the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, MICs, and Africa. The Heads of State and Government therefore *underscored* the importance of promoting capacity building technology transfer and ICT literacy in the post quantum computer era through regional and international cooperation to bridge ICT gap between developed and developing countries.

1201. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that the responsible, ethical and inclusive design, development, deployment and use of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems has the potential to accelerate and enable progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, they *urged* the need to develop and implement regulatory and governance mechanisms, in line with their respective national policies and relevant international frameworks, to support responsible and inclusive artificial intelligence innovation, while simultaneously promoting the design, development, deployment and use of safe, secure, and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems.

1202. The Heads of State and Government called *for* the responsible use and treatment of information by the media in accordance with codes of conduct and professional ethics media in all their forms have an important role in the Information Society and ICTs should play a supportive role in this regard. They *reaffirmed* the necessity of reducing international imbalances affecting the media, particularly as regards infrastructure, technical resources and the development of human skills.

1203. The Heads of State and Government *highly commended* Malaysia for chairing the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC-VI), and highly commended the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for successfully hosting the 7th Conference of Ministers of Information of the Non-Aligned Countries (COMINAC-VII), held in Isla Margarita, 2-4 July 2008 and for the substantive outcome document and Programme of Action, adopted by the Conference and they expressed the Movement's resolve and commitment to implement the decisions and recommendations contained therein.

1204. The Heads of State and Government concurred on the importance of strengthening and consolidating the work of the NAM News Network (NNN), with a view to further highlighting and make visible the activities carried out by the Movement. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their appreciation to Malaysia for launching and supporting the NNN since its inception in 2003.

1205. The Heads of State and Government stressed *the importance* of voluntary financing to the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) established in Geneva as an innovative financial mechanism of a voluntary nature open to interested stakeholders with the objective of transforming the digital divide into digital opportunities for the developing world by focusing mainly on specific and urgent needs at the local level and seeking new voluntary sources of "solidarity" finance. The DSF will complement existing mechanisms for funding the Information Society, which should continue to be fully utilized to fund the growth of new ICT infrastructure and services.

1206. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed *their concern* over the use of media as a tool for hostile propaganda against developing countries aimed at undermining their governments and *stressed the need* to promote alternative, free, pluralistic and responsible media and communication sources, that reflect the realities and interests of the peoples of the developing world.

1207. The Heads of State and Government expressed *their opposition* to the dissemination of discriminatory and distorted information of events taking place in developing countries. In this regard, they *strongly supported* the efforts for establishing a special coordination of the Movement that articulates successful experiences of alternative media, such as "The new south TV" (TELESUR), with a view to coordinate a communicational policy of non-aligned countries and to further advance towards the revitalization of the Broadcasting Organizations of Non-Aligned Countries (BONAC), considering such as effective media for transmitting factual news of events of the developing countries to the world.

1208. The Heads of State and Government stressed *the need* for the implementation and follow up of the outcomes of the both phases of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), held in Geneva and Tunis. In this context, they stressed the importance of the contribution of the Non-Aligned Countries toward achieving the development oriented outcomes of the Summits, the Tunis commitment and the full implementation of the agenda for the Information Society, and urged UN Member States, relevant UN bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and private sector in implementation of the outcomes.

1209. The Heads of State and Government *took note* of UN General Assembly resolution 76/227 on "Countering disinformation for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

1210. The Heads of State and Government reiterated *their support* for Tunis Agenda for Information Society, especially its development content and stressed the importance of effective participation of equitable and effective representation from developing countries in the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS process, including for the Internet Governance Forum and for Enhanced Cooperation.

1211. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the centrality of the role of the General Assembly in the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in 2015, as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the outcome document of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) adopted in December 2015 by the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly. In this regard, they also reaffirmed the centrality of the General Assembly in this process and acknowledged that the overall review by the UNGA shall take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, address potential ICT gaps and areas for continued focus, as well as address challenges, including bridging the digital divide, and harness information and communications technologies for development.

1212. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society that internet governance, carried out according to the Geneva principles, constitutes a core issue of the Information Society agenda and that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international internet governance and invited the Member States, to maximize their participation in decisions regarding internet governance, in order to reflect their interests in related processes. They also *reaffirmed* the WSIS conviction on the need for enhanced cooperation, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet.

1213. The follow-up to WSIS, as foreseen through enhanced cooperation and envisaged fair internet governance, has yet to yield its expected results. The Heads of State and Government highlighted that the architecture for internet governance should be fair, inclusive and transparent, and it should be addressed in a global setup, backed by the UN system, through extensive participation and leading role of all States with a multi-stakeholder approach as set out in the WSIS outcomes. The Heads of State and Government expressed their expectation that all existing and ongoing processes, including the most recent one on Global Digital Compact contribute to this objective.

1214. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions and affirming the need to defend, preserve and promote these positions, The Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures and initiatives, among others:

1214.1 Work for the full implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and in this context, promote effective and equitable participation of NAM countries in this process;

1214.2 Increase cooperation to promote a New World Information and Communication Order, based on universal, inclusive and non-discriminatory access to information and knowledge relating to ICT, as an essential requirement to reduce the growing digital divide between developed and developing countries and to achieve the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

1214.3 Consider holding a NAM workshop on the appropriate use and management of the internet to share best practices and lessons learned in this area;

1214.4 Call for an immediate end to the misuse of media for inciting and launching campaigns against NAM members, including, inter alia, the hostile use of radio and electronic transmissions contrary to the principles of the international law, as well as the dissemination of discriminatory and distorted information of events in developing countries, and campaigns that defame religions, cultures and symbols;

1214.5 Recognize that the illicit use of ICT's could have a detrimental impact on a member State's infrastructure, national security and economic development, and stress the need for international efforts to address this issue;

1214.6 The Heads of State and Government expressed concern at the increasing use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technologies, in particular the internet and other media, and the use of such technologies to commit, incite, recruit for, fund or plan terrorist acts.

1214.7 The Heads of State and Government expressed their concern for the potential use of ICT's in international conflicts, covert and illegal operations, and attacks to third countries by individuals, organizations and States through the use of computer systems of other nations. The Heads of State and Government further *expressed* their concern on the expressed ability of some Governments to respond to such attacks with conventional weapons, and reiterated that the most effective ways to prevent and address these new threats is through the joint cooperation among all States, and preventing the cyberspace to become a theatre of military operations;

1214.8 The Heads of State and Government recognized the need for taking a comprehensive approach to threats in the sphere of ICT. States which have monopoly and dominance in ICT environment, including internet, shall not use ICT advantages as a tool for containment and suppression of legitimate social, economic and technological development and political stability of other States.

1214.9 The Heads of State and Government called *upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being. They also called upon all States to enhance efforts to close the digital divides by facilitating the transfer of technology and capacity building to developing countries;

1214.10 Support and strengthen the implementation of the Isla Margarita Declaration and Programme of Action;

1214.11 Coordinate NAM efforts in the issues related to communication and information at the United Nations and relevant international organizations and agencies, including UNESCO, particularly in the context of the Intergovernmental Program for the Development of Communications (IPDC) and the Information for All Program (IFAP), with a view to debate on the development of media and the development of community media through the promotion of multilateral cooperation;

1214.12 Support and strengthen the role of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in assisting its Member States, particularly developing countries in building their ICT capacities.

Advancement of Women

1215. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the progress made towards the full implementation of the BDPA through concerted policy action and *recommitted* the Movement to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women and *reaffirmed* their full support for the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

1216. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Political Declaration of the 64th Session of the CSW on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Fourth

World Conference on Women, as well as the declarations adopted by that Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

1217. The Heads of State and Government recognized that no country in the world has fully achieved gender equality and expressed deep concern that progress has been slow and uneven and that major gaps and obstacles remain in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action. They *reaffirmed* their political will and firm commitment to tackle challenges and remaining implementation gaps in all twelve critical areas of concern.

1218. The Heads of State and Government noted *with concern* that women's unequal access to economic resources and the feminization of poverty continues to impede progress towards the full achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

1219. The Heads of State and Government stressed that the violence against women and girls, including manifestations of extreme violence, continues to be a major obstacle to the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women. In this regard, they *reiterated* their firm commitment to join efforts and continue combating all forms of violence against women and girls until its complete elimination, recognizing the importance of engaging men and boys.

1220. The Heads of State and Government expressed *their resolve* to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child especially in situations of armed conflicts, and foreign occupation, including the systematic use of abduction and rape, including as an instrument of war, as well as the trafficking in and victimization of women and girls. They expressed their abhorrence at the continuation of such acts. In this regard, they *called upon* States to take the necessary measures against the perpetrators of such acts and to ensure adherence to international law and domestic legislation, including legislating the protection of women and the girl child in situations of armed conflict, and bringing perpetrators to justice and ensuring access to justice for survivors.

1221. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and the Human Rights Council, as well as the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women that has a broad mandate covering all dimensions related to women's development, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

1222. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfillment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and invited States, which have not done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

1223. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, shall constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that will play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action, reaffirming the need for a coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the results of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields.

1224. The Heads of State and Government recognized the central and coordinating role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in cooperation with other relevant UN entities within their respective mandate, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women within the United Nations system, and to support all states efforts in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government *called upon* the United Nations system, in particular

UN-Women, within its mandate, to continue to support national efforts for the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its review and appraisal at the international, regional, national and local levels.

1225. The Heads of State and Government recalled that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action encouraged men and boys to participate fully in all actions towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and particularly reiterate the importance of engaging men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

1226. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and welcomed the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2020 and look forward to the observance of the 30th anniversary.

1227. The Heads of State and Government reiterated *the request* to the Executive Director of UN Women to pay special attention to the situation of women living under foreign occupation and their suffering by, inter alia, appointing a focal point to address their situations in full conformity with international law including international humanitarian law and human rights law.

1228. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* their commitment, in collaboration with the Organizations of the United Nations System and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations' Conferences and Summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women and girls, in their national, regional and global development strategies.

1229. The Heads of State and Government , in order to promote the human rights of women, *expressed their resolve* to take appropriate measures at the national, regional and international levels to improve the quality of life and achieve gender equality and empowerment of women, to foster economic and social contribution of women to the well-being of the family and society, to promote social significance of maternity and paternity, through inter alia adopting proper socio-economic strategies and programmes and provisions of government services to all women particularly women with disabilities and women in rural areas, including access to healthcare services, education, justice services, transportation and housing, promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men within the household, well as economic empowerment and strengthening family well-being.

1230. The Heads of State and Government expressed *their appreciation* for the significant role played by Egypt in the field of the advancement of women and women's empowerment. In this regard, they *welcomed* Egypt's initiative to invite for NAM First Ladies summits as a main forum to discuss women issues.

1231. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of resolution E/RES/2014/8, entitled "Observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond" during the 52nd Session of the UN Commission on Social Development (11-21 February 2014) focusing on the importance of the role of the family in the society and the resolution 73/144 entitled "Follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International year of the Family and beyond" recognizing that those initiatives provided a useful opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the objectives of the International Year for increasing cooperation on family issues at all levels and for undertaking concerted action strengthen family-centered policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development.

1232. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* that the family, as the basic social unit for upbringing and protection of children, and social coherence and integration plays an important role in achieving sustainable development including but not limited to contributing to

eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* the role the family plays as a vital contributor to genuine and effective sustainable development and therefore to the internationally agreed development goals. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the need to promote and enhance national family policy as well as the family focus in the activities of the UN system and other relevant international organizations.

1233. The Heads of State and Government emphasized that consideration of the family issues at the international level should pay due attention to the national laws, traditions, religious and cultural background related to the family and its role in the society.

1234. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance of investing in a variety of family-oriented policies and programmes, as important tools for, *inter alia*, fighting poverty, social exclusion and inequality, promoting work-family balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity.

1235. The Heads of State and Government *expressed concern* over the current demographic, social and economic changes that affect families and called upon the international community to undertake appropriate actions to meet the needs not only of individual members of the family but also of the family as social institution, contributing to overall development efforts, to advance the institution of the family and rebuild the family culture in society, to promote the value of the family among youth. In this context, The Heads of State and Government welcomed the holding on 16 May 2016 of a Special High-Level event: "Uniting Nations for a Family Friendly World" to mark the international day of the families at the United Nations. They also *stressed* the importance of creating a conducive environment to strengthen and support families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large.

1236. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, in all political, economic and social spheres, ensuring full representation and full and equal participation of women as critical partners in the eradication of poverty.

1237. The Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation for the significant role played by Algeria in the field of women's political participation and in this regard they expressed gratitude to the Government of Algeria for its initiative to convene an International Conference on Effective and sustainable participation of women in elected Assemblies, held in Algiers on 10 and 11 December 2013. They welcomed the adoption of the Algiers Declaration emanating from the Conference and recognized the validity of its recommendations, including the one related to the establishment of an International Network of women parliamentarians in all regions, in order to enhance their effectiveness and performance as parliamentarians and to ensure regular interaction and continuous collaboration as well as reinforce the women's parliamentary diplomacy.

1238. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their commitment to the Doha Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Third NAM Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women in a challenging world *held in Doha, Qatar, on February 2012* and stressed the need for its implementation.

1239. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the Marrakesh Declaration adopted during the international conference on gender responsive budgeting held in Marrakesh from 9 to 10 November 2012. The Heads of State and Government also *commended* the progress achieved by many countries in terms of integration of the gender dimension in their respective policies.

1240. The Heads of State and Government expressed *their appreciation* for the functioning of the NAM Institute for the Empowerment of Women in Kuala Lumpur (NIEW) and reaffirmed their continued support to its activities. The Heads of State and Government *encouraged* NAM Member States to enhance their cooperation with the Institute and its regional offices, including through financial contributions, in order to strengthen their work and activities.

1241. The Heads of State and Government also *expressed their appreciation* for the efforts of Guatemala to launch the NAM regional office of the NAM Institute on the Empowerment of Women in Guatemala City, and look forward to the commencement of its activities at the earliest possible date.

1242. The Heads of State and Government took *note* with appreciation of the launch of NAM regional office of the NAM Institute on the Empowerment of Women in Cairo, and looks forward to the commencement of its activities, and extend our gratitude to the Government of Egypt for its efforts in this regard.

1243. The Heads of State and Government encouraged NAM Member States to enhance their cooperation with the Institute and its regional offices, including through financial contributions, in order to strengthen their work and activities.

1244. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their appreciation for the significant role of Azerbaijani Chairmanship in the field of advancement of the human rights of women and their empowerment. In this regard, they *took note* with appreciation of the convening of the Non-Aligned Movement Conference on Advancing the Rights and Empowerment of Women in Baku, Azerbaijan on 20-21 November, 2023 and *took note with appreciation of the* proposal to establish the NAM Women Platform and deliberate through the Coordinating Bureau on this initiative including on the working modalities related thereto.

1245. The Heads of State and Government took *note with appreciation of the* adoption of the Resolution 72/148 on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas and recognized the important role played by rural women in sustainable development. In this regard they reaffirmed the vital role of women and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development, as well as resolving to undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, equal access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology.

1246. The Heads of State and Government also *recognized* the importance of promoting, protecting and enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by rural women and girls, including the right to development.

1247. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the adoption of Ouagadougou Declaration during the Seventh Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of the OIC Member States held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 30 November to 01 December 2018 that focused on the increased roles and participations of women in economy and development, and Baku Declaration of the Fifth World Conference on the Role of Women in Development of the OIC Member States in Baku on 20 to 21 October 2014 which discussed the roles of women in sustainable development.

1248. The Heads of State and Government recalled with appreciation the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 76/141 on Violence against Women Migrant Workers to reaffirm provisions concerning women migrant workers. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government *reiterated* the shared responsibility of and need for cooperation among all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers.

1249. The Heads of State and Government affirmed the importance of achieving the full realization of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls by 2030, and in this regard welcomed the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the integration of a gender perspective into the 2030 Development Agenda through gender-sensitive targets and indicators, in accordance with the resolution 68/309 of the General Assembly.

1250. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the increasing representation of women at the highest political levels and in elected Assemblies, including the recent examples in NAM Member states, and in this context underlined the importance of promoting equal participation of women in the political systems of NAM Members, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 5.

1251. In this regard, The Heads of State and Government noted with great interest the United Nations policy to enhance women participation in leading UN senior officials' structures. They welcomed the Secretary General's System-wide Strategy on gender parity aimed at reaching Gender Parity in the UN System, starting from the upper echelons of the United Nations.

1252. They welcomed the re-appointment of Mrs. Amina J. Mohammed of Nigeria as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. They expressed appreciation for the work done by Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, of Ecuador, as President of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. They also welcomed appointment of Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly as Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ms. Winnie Byanyima as Executive Director of UNAIDS, Ms. Rebeca Grynspan as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Ms. Pamela Coke Hamilton as Executive Director of the International Trade Centre.

Indigenous Peoples

1253. The Heads of State and Government recalled the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly. Likewise, they *reiterated* their support for the need to promote the economic, political and cultural rights of the Indigenous Peoples and their commitment to give special attention to the efforts made at the national and multilateral levels in order to improve their living conditions through civil participation. Likewise, in face of the need to protect and preserve the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples undue appropriation and use of the traditional indigenous knowledge, they *agreed* to promote the defense of the bio-cultural collective heritage to allow Indigenous Peoples to have appropriate legal instruments on intellectual property so that their traditional knowledge is duly protected against unauthorized or inappropriate use by third parties.

1254. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the decision of the World Intellectual Property Organization General Assembly, held in Geneva from 14-22 July 2022, to hold a diplomatic conference in 2024 on the proposed Chair's text of a draft international legal instrument relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, and Traditional Knowledge associated with Genetic Resources.

1255. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* with appreciation the high-level event of the General Assembly to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, held on 10 April 2017, during the 16th session of the Permanent Forum on indigenous Issues, with the participation of representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations, as set out in resolutions 66/142, 66/296, 67/153, 68/149, 69/159, 70/232, 71/178, 72/155, 73/156, 74/135, 75/168, 76/148 and 77/203 adopted by consensus, and further recalled that 13 September 2022 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

1256. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the 22nd session of the Permanent Forum on indigenous issues held from 17-28 April 2023, under the theme “Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”.

1257. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 71/178 of 19 December 2016, which decided to proclaim 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, and UN General Assembly resolution 74/135 of 18 December 2019, which proclaims the period 2022–2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, to draw world attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages and to take further urgent steps at the national and international levels. In that regard, the Heads of State and Government expressed their appreciation for the decision of the XXVI Iberoamerican Summit to create the Iberoamerican Institute of Indigenous languages aimed to implement measures for the preservation, transmission and development of indigenous languages and congratulate the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for hosting the First Meeting of High Iberoamerican Authorities, that took place on 13 and 14 of June, 2019, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

1258. The Heads of State and Government stressed the importance for all UN mechanisms dealing with the issues relating to the rights of Indigenous Peoples to undertake their respective work in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant international human rights instruments, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as well as with their respective mandates.

1259. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the holding of the high level plenary meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, entitled as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples on 22 and 23 September 2014 in New York in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 65/198. They *recalled* the High Level Meeting as an important platform to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

1260. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and urge Governments and the United Nations system, in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples through their representatives and institutions to implement, when necessary, appropriate measures, concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and other measures to realize the commitment made in the outcome document.

1261. The Heads of State and Government recalled the responsibility of transnational corporations and other business enterprises to respect all human rights, and to operate transparently in a social and environmentally responsible manner, and in this regard, *underlined* the need to take further steps to prevent abuses of the rights of Indigenous Peoples by transnational corporations.

1262. The Heads of State and Government stressed that all cultures have the right to exist and to preserve their traditional knowledge and practices that are inherent to their identity. In this context, they *acknowledged* the right of the Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Peoples to fully enjoy their traditional and millenarian rights, and *took note* of the right of the government of Bolivia to defend and protect these practices for its peoples. In this context, the Heads of State and Government *noted* the ongoing discussions on some of these traditional practices, which may require scientific evaluation and the participation of the indigenous people, in this regard.

People of African Descent

1263. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 68/237 on the Proclamation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of

African descent: recognition, justice and development”, and further *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 69/16 on the Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

1264. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 75/314 on the establishment of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent as a consultative mechanism for People of African Descent and other relevant stakeholders.

1265. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the progress made towards the preparation of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent.

Illiteracy

1266. The Heads of State and Government expressed their deep concern over the fact that around 59 million children of primary school age remained out of school, had no access to primary education, 774 million adults are illiterate and a significant number of whom can be found among persons with disabilities, particularly in the developing world. Without accelerated progress towards education for all, national and internationally agreed targets for poverty reduction would be missed, and inequalities between countries and within societies would widen. They also *called* on all partners, including the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to sustain and expand the gains achieved during the UN Literacy Decade through additional technical and financial support.

1267. The Heads of State and Government stressed the need to use all opportunities and processes in 2015 and beyond to accelerate and achieve concrete results in the eradication of illiteracy.

1268. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* their commitment, in collaboration with United Nations organizations, multilateral and bilateral donors, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, to sustain their collective efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments and to contribute to shaping the Global Alliance for Literacy within the framework of lifelong learning into an effective platform for synergistic action at the global, regional, national and community levels.

1269. In this context, the Heads of State and Government decided to give priority attention to the development of cooperation schemes among NAM Members States, as well as to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation to effectively address and eradicate illiteracy. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the progress made in the implementation of various literacy initiatives recognized by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), including the “YO SI PUEDO” and “YO SI PUEDO SEGUIR” literacy method.

1270. The Heads of State and Government *decided* to create literate communities and societies, eradicating illiteracy, including among women and girls and eliminating the gender gap in literacy, inter alia, by intensifying efforts to follow-up to the 2030 Framework for Action (FFA) for Education and Skills for the 21st Century and other activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as other literacy initiatives within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1271. The Heads of State and Government recalled the International Conference on Girls’ and Women’s Literacy and Education: Foundations for Sustainable Development, held in Dhaka and co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in support of the Global Education First Initiative and on the occasion of International Literacy Day, on 8 September 2014, and took note with appreciation of the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration.

1272. The Heads of State and Government *noted* with appreciation the significant role played by the United Arab Emirates in the area of women's education, especially for girls, and *welcomed* the outcome of the UNHRC's panel discussion initiated by the UAE on "Realizing the Equal Enjoyment of the Right to Education by Every Girl", held in June 2015, as well as noted the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 47/5 in 2021, co-led by UAE, which called for the international community to commit to 12 years of quality education for all girls.

1273. The Heads of State and Government *also decided* to continue to give adequate attention through, inter alia, the education systems to the cultural diversity of Indigenous Peoples, people in vulnerable situations, in particular persons with disabilities, as well as to design and deliver high-quality literacy programmes for youth, adults and older persons.

Health, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis, COVID-19 and other communicable diseases as well as NCDs

1274. The Heads of State and Government expressed their concern at the global threat posed by health epidemics, such as COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, Hepatitis, Ebola Virus Disease, and other communicable diseases. In this context, they *called on* the Member States of the United Nations to enhance their cooperation at the national, regional and international levels on the basis of strengthened international solidarity and cooperation, in a true spirit of multilateralism and respect for human rights, to confront and combat these scourges.

1275. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their grave concern about the Ebola virus disease and its adverse impact on the affected countries, and underscored that the control of major epidemics require proper early warning, preparedness, resilience-building, cross-sectoral action and greater national, regional and international collaboration, and, in this regard, *stressed* the continued need for a coordinated response to the Ebola outbreak, including through support for the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. The Heads of State and Government *commended* the efforts made by the most affected countries, namely Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the support and assistance provided by the international community, including various NAM countries, in controlling and overcoming this epidemic.

1276. The Heads of State and Government recognized that the spread of HIV/AIDS constitutes a global emergency and poses one of the most formidable challenges to the development, progress and stability of their respective societies and the world at large, and requires an exceptional and comprehensive global response. They *took note* of the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS of the United Nations General Assembly held on 08-10 June 2021; *reaffirmed* their commitment to the implementation of the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDs of 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021; *called on* Member States of the United Nations to significantly scale up their efforts towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, and towards putting an end to AIDS epidemic by 2030; *called upon* all States, especially developed countries to implement fully these commitments; and *urged* international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the business sector to support national efforts and priorities.

1277. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 76/301 of 2 September 2022, and modalities resolution 77/275 of 2 March 2023, which decided to hold a one-day High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly, to be convened by the President of the General Assembly in collaboration with the World Health Organization, and at the level of Heads of State and Government on 20 September 2023.

1278. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly Political Declaration A/RES/78/3 of 5 October 2023 on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, co-facilitated by the Kingdom of Morocco and which affirmed that pandemics call for timely, urgent and continued leadership, global solidarity, increased international cooperation and multilateral commitment among Member States and with relevant United Nations entities and other relevant international and regional organizations, to implement coherent and robust

national, regional and global actions, driven by science and the need to prioritize equity to promote and protect human rights, including the right to development, through inter alia the timely, equitable and unhindered access to medical countermeasures and health technologies for developing countries and the respect for human rights to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, and fully address the direct and indirect consequences of future pandemics.

1279. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* HIV/AIDS as a cross-cutting issue impacting on sustainable development. They reiterated their strong concern over calls to have the pandemic discussed in the context of the UN Security Council. They called on Member States of the UN to promote the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for people living with HIV/AIDS within the mandate of the relevant United Nations system organs, agencies and programs.

1280. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the importance of prioritizing pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in national agendas, and ensuring the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for everyone, to ensure a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, to achieve universal health coverage with primary health-care as its cornerstone, which is fundamental to realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality health services and quality, safe, effective, affordable and essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies, underscoring the importance of enhanced international cooperation to support the efforts of Member States to achieve national health goals in these areas and urging Member States to strengthen international cooperation to support efforts to build and strengthen capacity in developing countries including through enhanced official development assistance.

1281. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the achievement of South-South cooperation in the fight against HIV/AIDS and *decided* to give priority attention to the development of cooperation schemes among NAM Member States, as well as to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation to effectively address HIV/AIDS in the fulfillment of SDG 3. In this regard, they recalled with appreciation the organization of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in New York, from 8 to 10 June 2021.

1282. The Heads of State and Government *appreciated* the efforts by Member States to implement commitments made to eradicate the scourge of Tuberculosis in order to accelerate the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the WHO's End Tuberculosis Strategy which share a common goal of ending the global Tuberculosis epidemic. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis, held in New York on 26 September 2018, and reaffirmed its political declaration, entitled "United to end tuberculosis: an urgent global response to a global epidemic". The Heads of State and Government also welcomed the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 77/274 to convene a high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis in New York on 22 September 2023.

1283. The Heads of State and Government further *welcomed* the adoption of UN resolution 75/328 on consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries particularly in Africa by the year 2030 and further welcomed the Global Technical Strategy for malaria 2016-2030 of the World Health Organization, adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2015.

1284. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 78/4 "Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage." and its recognition of the need to enhance the capacities of developing countries to achieve universal health coverage and have equitable access to vaccines and health technologies and means to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 and other pandemics, as well as the need to strengthen the support for national, regional and multilateral initiatives that aim to accelerate

the development and production of and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines, while taking note of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

1285. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a challenge for all humankind. The Heads of State and Government reiterated that addressing AMR must not in any way hinder affordable and equitable access to existing and new medicines, vaccines, and diagnostic tools, taking into account the needs of all countries, in line with the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR. The Heads of State and Government look forward to the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance in 2024, mandated by UN General Assembly resolution 76/257.

1286. The Heads of State and Government reiterated their grave concern over the slow progress being made in reducing maternal and child mortality and improving the health of women and children, especially in Africa. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* global commitment to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health; further *encouraged* all efforts at the national, regional and international levels to address this challenge; and *called on* all partners to meet their obligations in that regard. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the report of the United Nations Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health entitled "Keeping Promises, Measuring Results" and *called on* all partners to consider its recommendations towards ensuring rapid progress in maternal and child health. The Heads of State and Government also emphasized the importance of giving appropriate consideration to women and children's health in the discussion on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1287. In this context, The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their appreciation for the significant role played by the United Arab Emirates in the field of maternal and child health and took note, with appreciation, of the outcome of the experts meeting on "From Principles to Practice: Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health: Implementing the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health hosted in Abu Dhabi from 4-5 April 2016, with the purpose of formulating the 5-year implementation strategy for the Everywhere work stream for the Global Strategy for the United Nations Secretary-General's "Every Woman Every Child" initiative. The Heads of State and Government took note with appreciation of the convening of the Partnership for Maternal, New Born and Child Health (PMNCH) Partners' Forum in New Delhi in December 2018 with focus on improving multisectoral action for results, sharing country solutions and capturing the best practices and knowledge within and among the health sector and related sectors.

1288. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* concern over the threat posed by the emergence and spread of pandemics and health emergencies, including COVID-19, Ebola Virus Disease, swine flu A (H1N1) and the Avian Influenza, which have produced or have the potential to produce a severe impact not only on public health worldwide but also on the global and national economies. They *reiterated* that it is imperative that concerted actions be undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to address and deal with this challenge in an effective and timely manner.

1289. The Heads of State and Government *congratulated* the World Health Organization on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and reiterated the leading role and guidance of the WHO in ensuring effective response of the international community to the challenges caused by diseases and health problems.

1290. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the adoption by consensus of the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution 64/57 on pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccine and other benefits. They *underlined* the importance of cooperation at the global level in implementing the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework.

1291. The Heads of State and Government *appreciated* active participation in the Virtual Meeting of NAM Ministers of Health, held on 18 May 2023, on the margins of the 76th World

Health Assembly, and their determination and commitment to fully implement their decisions and recommendations and consistently follow up on these issues, as well as on those contained in previous NAM Declarations related to “Strengthening the International Health System: Reinforcing Global Solidarity against Pandemics, Addressing Health System and Financing and Universal Coverage, as well as Combating Non-Communicable Diseases” (2011); strengthening the international health system and reinforcing the global solidarity against pandemics (2010); Health and Financial Crisis (2009); and Migration and Training Qualified Health Personnel, Diseases disproportionately affecting developing countries, and Responsible practices at the international level for sharing of avian influenza viruses and ensuring benefits sharing (2008), on an equal footing, in ways that would protect the interest of developing countries.

1292. The Heads of State and Government *considered* the adoption of the “Code of practice on the international recruitment of health personnel” as a positive development that requires further consolidation through practical measures to address the effects of the migration of the health workers from developing countries.

1293. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 75/27 proclaiming the International Day of Epidemic Preparedness on 27 December, with a wide cross regional support of 107 Member States as co-sponsors. They noted the importance to strengthen epidemic prevention by applying lessons learned on epidemic management and how to prevent the stoppage of basic services, and to raise the level of preparedness in order to have the earliest and most adequate response to any epidemic that may arise.

1294. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of the UNGA Resolution proclaiming the International Day of Yoga on 21st June, with a wide cross regional support of 177 Member States as co-sponsors. Noting the importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices and following lifestyle patterns that foster good health, they *noted* that Yoga provides a holistic approach to health and wellbeing and look forward to the annual celebration of the International Day of Yoga on 21 June, at the United Nations.

1295. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, held in New York on 27 September 2018, and reaffirmed its political declaration, entitled “Time to deliver: accelerating our response to address non-communicable diseases for the health and well-being of present and future generations”. The Heads of State and Government *underscored* the need for concerted action and a coordinated response at the national, regional and global levels in order to adequately address the developmental and other challenges posed by non-communicable diseases, in particular the four most prominent non-communicable diseases namely cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* their support to the Political Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases by the high-level meeting of the GA on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases on 19 and 20 September 2011 in New York, as well as its comprehensive review and assessment of the progress, held in New York on 10 and 11 July 2014. The Heads of State and Government *also emphasized* the importance of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1296. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the challenge posed worldwide by mental disorders and the need for a comprehensive, coordinated response from health and social sectors and *welcomed* the adoption of the General Assembly resolutions 62/139 titled “World Autism Awareness Day”, which designated 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day and 67/82 titled “Addressing the socioeconomic needs of individuals, families and societies affected by autism spectrum disorders, developmental disorders and associated disabilities”.

1297. The Heads of State and Government furthermore *emphasized* the importance of sustained multi-sectoral, cost-effective and population-wide interventions in order to reduce the

impact of the common non-communicable diseases risk factors through the implementation of, inter alia, national policies and plans as well as international agreements and strategies and education by involving all relevant stakeholders.

1298. The Heads of State and Government also *acknowledged* the contribution of international cooperation and assistance in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and, in this regard encouraged the continued inclusion of non-communicable diseases in development cooperation agenda's and initiatives.

1299. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* concern at the adverse impact of the recurring international economic and financial crisis on the health systems in developing countries. In this context, they *called upon* donor countries to honor their commitments to allocate 0.7% of their gross domestic product as official development assistance, and urged donors to increase international cooperation programmes on health, including those aimed at supporting the achievement of the SDG's and strengthening national health systems through capacity building and technology transfer. They further *recognized* that South-South cooperation does not substitute, but complements North-South cooperation; and, in this regard, *reaffirmed* their determination to exploring more effective South-South cooperation, as well as triangular cooperation, allowing for the mobilization of additional resources necessary for the implementation of health-related development programmes, including.

1300. The Heads of State and Government *underscored* the need to address gaps in preventing, preparing for, and responding to health emergencies, including in development and distribution of, and unhindered, timely and equitable access to, medical countermeasures such as vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, as well as strengthening health systems and their resilience with a view to achieving universal health coverage.

1301. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that health financing requires global solidarity and collective efforts and strengthening international cooperation to support efforts to build and strengthen capacity in developing countries, including through enhanced official development assistance.

1302. The Heads of State and Government *aacknowledged* the need to support developing countries in building expertise and in developing local and regional manufacturing capacities for health tools, while recognizing that the high prices of some health products, and inequitable access to such products within and among countries, as well as financial hardships associated with high prices of health products, continue to impede progress towards achieving universal health coverage.

1303. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the unprecedented effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the severe impact on societies and economies globally, particularly in developing countries and most notably in low-income and middle-income countries. In addition, they considered it necessary, among others, to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity, expand South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, advance in relation to exploring the means and instruments needed to achieve debt sustainability, as well as the necessary measures to reduce the indebtedness of the developing countries, including through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring, sound debt management and the suspension of associated debt services, as appropriate and to also advance in the reform of the international financial architecture with the purpose of establishing a truly just and equitable New International Economic Order, in which the needs and particularities of the Global South are taken into account and all obstacles preventing the development of national capacities are removed.

1304. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the need to make full use of the flexibilities available under the WTO TRIPS Agreement, including those recognized by the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and the WTO decision of 30 August 2003, in order to address the public health needs of their populations and to promote access to

affordable medicines and vaccines for all. In this context, they welcomed the ministerial decision on the WTO response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Preparedness for Future Pandemics and the ministerial decision on the TRIPS Agreement adopted at the twelfth ministerial Conference of WTO, held in Geneva from 12 to 17 June 2022.

1305. The Heads of State and Government *called* for the urgent promotion of policies for equitable access to medical countermeasures, including therapeutics, vaccines and other health technologies and the fight against their derived discrimination; the guarantee of equity in access to international financing for the post-pandemic economic recovery resulting from COVID-19; the denunciation of the commercial use of health by some governments and pharmaceutical companies, as well as the political use of global cooperation in health.

1306. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the evolving partnerships between a variety of stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels aimed at addressing the multifaceted determinants of global health and the commitments and initiatives to accelerate progress on the health-related internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

1307. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the close relationship between foreign policy and global health and their interdependence, and in that regard also *recognized* that global health challenges require concerted and sustained efforts by the international community. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the adoption of UN General Assembly resolutions 68/98 and 69/132, 70/183, 71/159 and welcomed the adoption of resolutions 72/139, 73/132, 74/20 and 75/130 on Global Health and foreign policy and look forward to continuing discussions on the subject, especially the impact of non-health issues on global health as well as the social determinants in health. In this context, The Heads of State and Government *noted* with satisfaction the adoption of the 2009 ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration entitled “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health”. The Heads of State and Government *appreciated* the commitments made by Member States in the context of resolution 71/159 to increase awareness on the common vulnerabilities of national health systems and the impact of non-health issues on global health as well as the social determinants of health as well as their commitment to continue implementing and advancing universal health coverage that comprise equitable access to quality health services and ensure affordable and quality service delivery, especially through primary health care and social protection mechanisms, with the support of the international community and with a view to providing access to health services for all in particular those in vulnerable or marginalized situations.

1308. The Heads of State and Government *took note* with appreciation of the Fifth Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety, held on 23-24 February 2023, in Switzerland, and the Montreux Charter on Patient Safety as its outcome.

1309. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 75/310, its first ever resolution on “Vision for Everyone: accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, at the 75th session, introduced by Bangladesh, which committed access to eye health for the 1.1 billion people living with preventable sight loss by 2030.

1310. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 75/273, its first ever resolution on “Global drowning prevention”, at the 75th session, introduced by Bangladesh, which acknowledges the ‘silent epidemic’ for the first time in UN’s 75-year history and proclaimed 25 July as World Drowning Prevention Day to promote awareness and encourage national action, as well as share best practices and key solutions to drowning.

1311. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed many deficiencies in the global health architecture, as well as both in the implementation and compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005). In this regard, they *expressed* their support for the efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO) to end COVID-19, *underscored*

their willingness to continue actively participating in the Member State-led process to consider potential targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), maintaining the focus on the needs of developing countries, including low- and middle-income countries, and also in the negotiation of a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, with a view to adoption under article 19, or under other provisions of the Constitution of the WHO, as may be deemed appropriate by the intergovernmental negotiating body, while reaffirming the importance of ensuring universal and equitable access to medical countermeasures, such as vaccines, medicines, medical equipment, diagnostic tests and other health technologies.

1312. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the additional impediments faced by certain nations, including from the Non-Aligned Movement, inter alia, in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a result of the promulgation and application of unilateral coercive measures, which are flagrant violations of the norms and the fundamental principles of international law, including those set forth within the Charter of the United Nations, and, in that regard, *condemned* such wrongful acts and further condemned that such unlawful measures were neither terminated nor even partially lifted but, instead, were expanded and further intensified, resulting in human losses and in both obstacles and deliberate delays for getting access to essential supplies, including vaccines, medicines, medical equipment and diagnostic tests.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

1313. The Heads of State and Government *noted* with deep concern that the COVID-19 pandemic, owing to its severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, global trade, supply chains and travel, and agricultural, industrial and commercial system, is having a devastating impact on sustainable development and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, ending hunger, food security and nutrition, education, environmentally sound waste management and access to health care, and in countries in special situations and those countries most affected, and is making the prospect of achieving sustainable development more difficult, including eradication of poverty in all its form and dimensions by 2030, ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition.

1314. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* the importance of maintaining the continued functioning of the health system and strengthening of primary health care in all relevant aspects necessary for an effective public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing epidemics, including by addressing the issues of vaccine equity, access distribution and administration to ensure the continuation of undisrupted vaccination programmes, with the view to achieving universal health coverage, and *noted* with concern the disparity in distribution of safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable COVID-19 vaccines and reaffirmed the need to ensure equitable and timely access to medical countermeasures, including therapeutics and diagnostics and other health technologies between high-income and low- and middle income countries, which prevents the entire international community to recover better from the pandemic and to build resilient health systems, as soon as possible.

1315. The Heads of State and Government *remained deeply concerned* about the low availability of COVID-19 vaccines in low- and middle-income countries, in particular from developing countries. In this regard, they welcomed the efforts of countries which have provided COVID-19 vaccines, including to UN peacekeepers, and called for further sharing of vaccines doses and transfer of vaccine-manufacturing technology, to low- and middle-income countries and other countries in need, without politicization, including on the basis of the WHO allocation framework, for fair access and equitable allocation of COVID-19 vaccines health products.

1316. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the imperative need for the international community to work in unity and solidarity through a collective approach to overcome global challenges and mitigate their multifaceted impacts, in particular the COVID-19 pandemic and its ensuing crises, in the spirit of collaboration and solidarity, not confrontation.

1317. The Heads of State and Government *noted with appreciation* the central role played by NAM in mobilizing global efforts, in the spirit of multilateralism, international cooperation and solidarity, to address the pandemic and its negative consequences through its several successful initiatives.

1318. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that since the outbreak of the pandemic, NAM and many of its members have been at the center of efforts in eliminating the consequences of COVID-19, bilaterally and multilaterally *inter alia*, by putting forward important initiatives within the United Nations and providing necessary medical supplies, including COVID-19 vaccines, which has been widely recognized by the international community and *further stressed*, in this regard, the need for the Movement to maintain its central role also in preparation for the post-pandemic period.

1319. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on 3-4 December 2020, upon the initiative of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on behalf of the NAM Member States, supported by a majority of the UN Member States, and held in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution 75/4.

1320. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 74/270, entitled "Global Solidarity to Fight Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)" and 74/274, entitled "International cooperation to guarantee global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to deal with COVID-19".

1321. The Heads of State and Government *further welcomed* the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 76/175 entitled "Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic" put forward by Azerbaijan, on behalf of the NAM Member States at the 76th session of the Assembly.

1322. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the Online Summit-level Meeting of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 held on 4 May 2020 through video-conference and the Summit-level meeting of the NAM Contact Group in response to COVID-19 on post-pandemic global recovery, held on 2 March 2023, in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Transnational Organized Crime

1323. The Heads of State and Government reiterated the Movement's commitment to coordinate the efforts and strategies at national, regional and international levels against transnational organized crime and to develop the most effective methods in preventing and combating crime of this nature.

1324. The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that transnational organized criminal activities adversely affect development, political stability and social and cultural values.

1325. The Heads of State and Government highlighted the importance of socioeconomic development when formulating comprehensive crime prevention strategies.

1326. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* that preventing and responding to the threats and challenges posed by transnational organized crime requires close cooperation at international level. They *renewed* their commitment to fight all forms of transnational organized crime by strengthening national legal frameworks, where applicable, technical assistance and cooperation mechanisms, in particular through the exchange of information, mutual legal assistance and extradition in accordance with domestic law and relevant applicable international instruments as appropriate.

1327. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their concern over the international challenges and barriers, in particular those resulting from the promulgation and application of

unilateral coercive measures, which negatively impact international cooperation in both preventing and combating transnational organized crime in a more efficient and effective manner. In this regard, they *strongly urged* States to fulfill their obligations in facilitating and strengthening international cooperation in fighting transnational organized crime, as well as promoting the rule of law by refraining from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures.

1328. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* that the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice and the 2005 Bangkok Declaration recognized that comprehensive crime prevention strategies must address, inter alia, the root causes and risk factors of crime. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* that relevant international instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime could serve as a strong foundation to build close cooperation at the international level in preventing and combating transnational organized crime.

1329. The Heads of State and Government expressed their concern over the loss, destruction and removal of the cultural property and the increased involvement of organized criminal groups in trafficking in looted, stolen, illicitly traded or smuggled cultural property. The Heads of State and Government *underlined* the importance of national, regional and international initiatives for the protection of cultural property, in particular the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation, and *stressed* the importance of fostering international law enforcement cooperation to combat trafficking in cultural property and in particular the need to exchange information and experiences in order to operate in a more effective way; They also *welcomed* the adoption of the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with respect to Trafficking in Cultural Property and Other Related Offences by the United Nations General Assembly during its sixty-ninth session.

1330. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* concern about the growing involvement of organized criminal groups and terrorist groups in all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences and recalling relevant UN General Assembly resolutions on illicit trafficking and trade in cultural property, called upon Member States to strengthen efforts so that such groups may not benefit from trafficking in cultural property, and to enhance cooperation to ensure the return, restitution or repatriation of trafficked, illicitly exported or imported, stolen, looted, illicitly excavated or illicitly traded cultural property to countries of origin.

1331. The Heads of State and Government expressed concern at the involvement of organized criminal groups, as well as the substantial increase in the volume, rate of transnational occurrence and range of criminal offences related to trafficking in precious metals, stones and other minerals in some parts of the world, and the potential use of their illicit trafficking as a source of funding for organized crime, other relevant criminal activities and terrorism.

1332. The Heads of State and Government *deplored* damage to the cultural heritage of countries in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation, and those affected by terrorist acts, in particular recent attacks on world cultural heritage sites, calls for an immediate end to such acts, and reminded States parties to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of the provisions contained therein to safeguard and respect cultural property and to prohibit, prevent and, if necessary, put a stop to any form of theft, pillage or misappropriation of and any acts of vandalism directed against cultural property.

1333. The Heads of State and Government *condemned* the destruction of the cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria particularly by Daesh and ANF, whether such destruction is incidental or deliberate, including targeted destruction of religious objects; and *noted* with concern that Daesh and ANF and other individuals, groups, undertakings and other entities associated with Al-Qaida are generating income from engaging directly or indirectly in the looting and smuggling of the cultural heritage items from archeological sites, museums, libraries and other sites in Iraq and

Syria which is being used to support their recruitment efforts and strengthen their operational capability to organize and carry out terrorist attacks.

1334. The Heads of State and Government furthermore *urged* States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to enhance broad cooperation in preventing and combating criminal offences against cultural property, especially in their restitution or returning such proceeds of crime or property to their legitimate owners, in accordance with article 14, paragraph 2, of the Convention, and in coordination with the UNODC, and *invited* States Parties to exchange information on all aspects of criminal offences against cultural property, in accordance with their national laws, and to coordinate administrative and other measures taken, as appropriate, for the prevention, early detection and punishment of such offences”.

1335. The Heads of State and Government also *expressed* their concern over the gravity of cybercrime and the misuse of information and telecommunications technologies in multiple forms of crime as set in the relevant UN General Assembly Resolutions on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 26/4 of 26 May 2017 on strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime, in which the “open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime” is requested to continue its work and is encouraged to develop possible conclusions and recommendations for submission to the Commission. The Heads of State and Government took note the work carried out by the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes as was decided through General Assembly resolutions 74/247 and 75/282, and in this regard they reaffirmed their commitment to continue actively participating in this forum, taking into account the interests of all Member States, in particular from developing countries, the provisions foreseen in the abovementioned resolutions and the road map and mode of work, as approved by the Ad Hoc Committee in 2022.

1336. The Heads of State and Government *further convinced* that transnational organized crime at sea is a global problem that threatens security, stability and the rule of law, undermines economic prosperity and sustainable development and threatens the environment, making international cooperation to prevent and control it essential. The Heads of State and Government emphasized that all States, in particular the parties to the various relevant conventions, have responsibility to take steps to counter the threat of transnational organized crime committed at sea, and the importance of international cooperation at all levels to fight all forms of transnational organized crime at sea, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and applicable international legal obligations, including the United Nations Charter, International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law.

1337. Consistent with and guided by the afore-mentioned principled positions, the Heads of State and Government agreed to undertake the following measures, among others:

1337.1 Take necessary steps at the national and international levels for the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the international instruments against illicit drug trafficking, where appropriate;

1337.2 Call for adequate financial and technical assistance and cooperation to enable developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement those treaties;

1337.3 Strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance for capacity-building in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, upon their request, for effective implementation of the obligations set forth in existing international crime prevention instruments;

1337.4 Adopt further measures and strengthen international cooperation in order to prevent, combat, punish and eradicate all forms of transnational organized crime more effectively, in accordance with international law;

1337.5 The Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the responsibility of States to cooperate with one another, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including with respect to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of intolerance;

1337.6 The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* that North-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for the sustainable development of the countries of the South, including through the transfer of technologies, on favorable, preferential and concessional terms;

1337.7 Strengthen coordination and cooperation, as well as the formulation of common strategies with the Group of 77 and China, through the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC), on issues relative to transnational organized crime to address the collective concerns and promote the common interests of developing countries in international fora;

1337.8 Take note of the Doha Declaration adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha, Qatar from 12 to 19 April 2015. Take note of the results achieved by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 07 to 12 March 2021, including the “Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”;

1337.9 Take note of the outcome of Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna, from 17-21 October 2022, and *agreed* that the review mechanism to assist the Conference in reviewing its implementation and that of the Protocols thereto could produce tangible and useful results to support the efforts of all States Parties to effectively and fully implement their international obligations;

1337.10 The Heads of State and Government *expressed* their concerns regarding the growing links between transnational organized crime including but not limited to illicit trafficking in firearms, small arms and light weapons, ammunitions, drugs, cigarettes, cultural heritage and trafficking in persons in the Sahel-Saharan region where the hostage-taking, involving ransom payments, and terrorist acts are a threat to regional security;

1337.11 The Heads of State and Government emphasized the importance of regional, inter-regional, and international coordination in addressing the security threats in the Sahel region. In this context, the Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the outcome of the Regional Ministerial Conferences on border security between Sahel and Maghreb States held on 11-12 March 2012 in Tripoli, Libya, and on 13-14 November 2013 in Rabat, Morocco, as a significant contribution to a comprehensive and coordinated response to the scourge of drug trafficking, terrorism and organized crime in the region.

1337.12 Encourage and advance international cooperation to track illicit financial flows to truly identify, prosecute and dismantle the beneficiaries of the different manifestations of Transnational Organized Crime that are interconnected through trafficking in persons, drug trafficking, smuggling of commercial goods, wildlife trafficking, and money laundering, among others.

1337.13 Promote the recovery of money derived from Transnational Organized Crime to serve our countries to repair the damage caused by these crimes and be able to invest them directly in the affected communities.

1338. The Heads of State and Government *encouraged* the Member States to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering, and, in some cases, terrorism, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism.

Trafficking in Persons

1339. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* that trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a grave offence to human dignity and physical integrity, a violation and abuse of human rights and a challenge to sustainable development, and that it remains a global challenge affecting all countries around the world, despite a significant intensification of international efforts, and cooperation in combatting this crime and requires a concerted national and international response. They stressed the importance of the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

1340. The Heads of State and Government *recognized* that respect for human rights is an important basis for comprehensive anti-human trafficking strategies and *reiterated* their view that this crime requires a concerted national and international response and *urged* all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of Trafficking in Persons. In this regard, they welcomed the progress that countries have made, inter alia, in introducing national legislation criminalizing these crimes and providing a legal framework for its combatting, including through the provision of measures to assist victims of trafficking in persons, taking into consideration special conditions of women and girls, as well as persons in vulnerable situations, such as children.

1341. The Heads of State and Government recognized that slavery and trafficking in persons continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity and requires a concerted international response. To that end, they *urged* all States to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of slavery and trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims and to bring perpetrators to justice.

1342. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* the need to prevent and combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs, in accordance with their obligations under international and national law, and to uphold accountability through measures that may include preventing and, in accordance with relevant national legislation, investigating, prosecuting and punishing trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal as well as trafficking in human organs.

1343. The Heads of State and Government also *recognized* 2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations convention for Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing protocols, particularly the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), and in this regard recalled the outcome of Luxor International Forum "End Human Trafficking Now: Enforcing the UN Protocol", co-organized by Egypt and the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) in December 2010, with the aim to promote dialogue, highlight priority issues, and mobilize the highest level of political support to engage in concrete actions that will assume complementarily between the legal and cooperation frameworks and participation of private sector, civil society, and NGOs in order to combat trafficking in persons.

1344. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the Implementation Guidelines to the Athens Ethical Principles: Comprehensive Compliance Programme for Businesses (Luxor Protocol), signed by the private sector in order to enhance their contribution to the eradication of human trafficking worldwide, as well as the launch of the E-learning Tool against Human

Trafficking, an electronic training program to raise awareness of businessmen around the world in cooperation with UN.GIFT and Microsoft.

1345. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their invitation to all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and following its entry into force, to implement the Protocol effectively, including by incorporating its provisions into national legislation and by strengthening criminal justice systems. They *expressed* the Movement's resolve to strengthen the capacity of the UN and other international organizations to provide assistance to Member States, upon request, in implementing the Protocol.

1346. The Heads of State and Government *recalled* the adoption by consensus of the UN General Assembly resolution on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons 68/192, 70/179, 72/195, 73/146, 74/176, 75/158, 76/186, 78/228 and 77/194 and also of the United Nations Global Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, by the UN General Assembly in resolution 64/293 on 30 July 2010, and *acknowledged* the role of NAM Member States in leading the negotiations process to implement the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration in this regard, and backed by the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

1347. The Heads of State and Government *stressed* the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Plan of Action by all Member States and international organizations, and *encouraged* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, in line with their existing mandates, to continue to implement the Global Plan, including by elaborating in cooperation with Member States a list of concrete measures as stipulated by the resolution 68/192. They also *expressed* their commitment to extend further cooperation with all relevant United Nations entities in order to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

1348. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the holding of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Appraisal of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held during its 75th Session, from 22-23 November 2021, in New York, to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action in reference, and also welcomed adoption at that time of the Political Declaration, as a testimony of the strong political will to take decisive and concerted action to end this heinous crime, wherever it may occur. They further welcomed the pledges made to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which was established in 2010 in compliance with the Global Plan of Action.

1349. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the holding of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons held, on 22 and 23 November 2021 at United Nations Headquarters, and also welcomed the adoption at that time of the Political Declaration on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

1350. The Heads of State and Government also *welcomed* the designation by the UN General Assembly of 30 July from 2014 on, as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, and recognized that its annual observance pursuant to UNGA resolutions 68/192, 70/179, 72/195, 74/176, 76/186 and 78/228 on "Improving the coordination efforts against trafficking in persons" by all Governments, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society would serve, inter-alia, as a reminder and an opportunity to honor and restore the dignity of the affected and to intensify efforts to eliminate the crime of trafficking in persons.

1351. The Heads of State and Government also *emphasized* that the creation and work of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women

and Children, established in 2010 in compliance with the Global Plan of Action, significantly contributed to raising awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and providing them with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance such as governmental, intergovernmental and non- governmental organizations. In this regard, they *encouraged* all States, civil society, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to contribute to the trust fund, as well as to the United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

1352. The Heads of State and Government referred to the recent adoption by consensus of Resolution 11/5 by the 11th session of the Conference of the Parties of the Palermo Convention on the Implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

1353. Bearing in mind the increased development of the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, The Heads of State and Government invited the States to prevent and fight this phenomenon by the reinforcement of the legislation in this field raising awareness and the setting up of national and local institutions dedicated to the fight against this scourge

1354. The Heads of State and Government drew *attention to the need to address* the new challenges generated by the rapid development of the Internet and other information and communications technologies that are being used to facilitate trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of exploiting women and children, and to recruit and control victims. In this context, they *recalled* resolutions 27/2 and 27/3, entitled “Preventing and combating trafficking in persons facilitated by the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies” and “Improving the protection of children against trafficking in persons, including by addressing the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies”, respectively, adopted in 2018 by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as well as resolution 32/1 entitled ‘taking action against trafficking in persons in business operations, public procurement and supply chains for goods and services’ adopted in 2023 by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

1355. Recognizing that all countries are affected by trafficking in persons, the Heads of State and Government *urged* all States to encourage national efforts being made to combat this crime and to work together in a collaborative manner and within a regional and international framework without political bias or imposing unilateral requirements on other States, bearing in mind the importance of the removal of international challenges and barriers, including unilateral coercive measures that undermine collective efforts and negatively impair allocation of resources for this purpose.

1356. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* their concern about the seriousness of trafficking in human organs and the increasing involvement of organized criminal groups in this crime and they agreed to coordinate their efforts to fight it.

1357. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* significant progress achieved under the “Bali Process on People Smuggling, trafficking in Persons and related Transnational Crime”, particularly the strengthening of regional and sub-regional cooperation in addressing irregular migration challenges. In this respect, the Heads of State and Government commended the continued commitment of the Bali Process members and observers to increase efforts to combat people smuggling and trafficking in persons, including by enhancing and implementing national legislation to criminalize these activities, strengthening interagency coordination, building greater consistency in legal regimes and processing of irregular migrants, and strengthening law enforcement mechanisms and cooperation, as well as immigration systems in the prosecution of these crimes. They also *took note* of 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation, which was adopted during the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons, which was held on 10 February 2023 in Adelaide.

1358. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* that implications of trafficking in persons can be addressed through adopting multi-dimensional development approaches, incorporating information about trafficking in persons into school curricula and training programs to educate children and young adults about the risks of human trafficking.

1359. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* also that responding to human trafficking requires the partnership with various stakeholders and bilateral and regional processes and initiatives.

1360. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, in Khartoum, from 13 to 16 October 2014, organized by the African Union in collaboration with the Government of the Sudan, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, in this regard they took note with appreciation of the outcome document of the Conference, known as the Khartoum Declaration, and called for its implementation, including through technical cooperation and capacity-building by the United Nations and the International Community.

1361. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the convening of the Trilateral Meeting between the representatives of the AU-Horn of Africa Initiative, the Khartoum Process, and the Rabat Process that took place in Luxor, Egypt, from 8th to 9th November 2017. In this regard, they took note of the fruitful discussions between the representatives of all Processes on the matters of migrant smuggling and trafficking of people, focusing on unaccompanied minors, where participants agreed to enhance operational synergies, advance joint efforts in addressing the common challenges, and expedite information flow between the processes.

Drug Trafficking

1362. The Heads of State and Government *expressed* grave concern at the worsening problem of illicit drug trafficking worldwide on account of its transnational and global nature. They reiterated that more effective measures must be taken to prevent, combat and eradicate the world drug problem in all its aspects. They further recognized that no single government can combat this menace alone successfully, given that criminal organizations linked to drug trafficking operate collectively in the territory of several countries and are multiplying trafficking routes and distribution methods, therefore cooperation, coordination and committed action by all countries are essential to curb this crime. The world drug problem constitutes a threat to public health, to sustainable socioeconomic development and to the stability of States.

1363. The Heads of State and Government *underscored* that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

1364. Consistent with the said position, the Heads of State and Government *reiterated* that the fight against the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that should be tackled in a multilateral framework and that can only be dealt with effectively through meaningful international cooperation, and it demands an integrated and balanced approach and should be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and other provisions of international law, in particular the respect for national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in their internal affairs, based on the principles of equal rights and mutual respect. Likewise, the Heads of State and Government *expressed* concern over the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), while noting the resolutions and decisions adopted during the previous sessions of the Commission on Narcotic drugs in Vienna, Austria, in this regard.

1365. The Heads of State and Government called *for* increased efforts to prevent and combat all aspects of the world drug problem, including reduction of the demand and supply and addressing public health concerns in conformity with member states' human rights obligations. They also *recognized* the importance of appropriate or suitable strategies, international cooperation, capacity building, collection of accurate and reliable drug data and increase sustainable alternative development programmes and strategies, in tackling the world drug problem while respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

1366. The Heads of State and Government *welcomed* the progress made by Member States in implementing the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and the 2016 Outcome Document of the 30th United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Problem, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", and recognized that these documents for addressing and countering, in a balanced manner, the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing. The Heads of State and Government further welcomed the adoption by the 2019 Ministerial Segment of the 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of a Declaration on "Strengthening our Actions at the National, Regional and International Levels to Accelerate the Implementation of Our Joint Commitments to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem" and look forward to its mid-term review and the high-level segment at the 67th Regular Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2024 in Vienna.

1367. The Heads of State and Government *encouraged* the continued contribution of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and of the Subcommittee on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, and in this regard welcomes the discussions conducted.

Corruption

1368. The Heads of State and Government stressed that corruption practices, including lack of sound international corporate governance, bribery, money laundering and transfer abroad of illegally acquired funds and assets undermine the economic and political stability and security of societies, undermines social justice and severely endangers the efforts of developing countries for sustainable development. They *recognized* that the UN Convention against Corruption provides universally accepted norms to prevent and combat corrupt practices, establishes the principle of asset recovery and transfer of assets of illicit origin and mechanism for international cooperation in this regard.

1369. Consistent with the aforementioned positions, the Heads of State and Government *stressed* in particular the implementation of the provisions on asset recovery contained in Chapter V of the UN Convention against Corruption, which require States Parties to return assets obtained through corruption. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* that one of the high priorities in the fight against corruption is to ensure the return of illegally acquired assets to the country of origin. The Heads of State and Government, therefore, *urged* all States Parties and relevant international organizations, consistent with the principles of the Convention, in particular Chapter V, to strengthen their cooperation at all levels in order to facilitate the quick return of such assets, and to assist requesting States to build human, legal and institutional capacity to facilitate tracing, confiscation and recovery of such assets.

1370. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the significant number of States that have already ratified or acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and in this regard urged all States, that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and calls upon all States parties to fully implement the

Convention as soon as possible, including through international cooperation as outlined in the Convention.

1371. The Heads of State and Government *emphasized* the need to combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, as well as the laundering of proceeds of corruption, to prevent the acquisition, transfer and laundering of proceeds of corruption and stressed that prompt asset recovery is one of the main purposes of the Convention and that the return of assets, pursuant to chapter V thereof, is a fundamental principle of the Convention and that States parties shall afford one another the widest measure of cooperation and assistance in this regard.

1372. The Heads of State and Government underscored the necessity to preserve the intergovernmental character of all subsidiary Organs/Working Groups in Vienna emanating from the Conference of States Parties in Accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference. In this regard, they welcomed the compromise reached during the Fourth Session of the conference of States Parties held in Marrakech, Morocco contained in Resolution 4/6 entitled “The Non-Governmental Organizations and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”.

1373. The Heads of State and Government *reiterated* the importance of developing and promoting effective policies and practices aimed at the prevention of corruption, and in this regard, stressed the need to enhance effort in accordance with chapter II of the Convention. They also underlined the importance of the Marrakech Declaration on the prevention of corruption 4/3 in encouraging the integration of anti-corruption national strategies and welcomed resolution 7/6 entitled “Follow-up of the Marrakech Declaration on the prevention of corruption”.

1374. The Heads of State and Government also *urged* Member States to continue working with all stakeholders on domestic and international financial markets to deny safe haven to assets illicitly acquired by individuals engaged in corruption, to deny entry and safe haven to corrupt officials and those who corrupt them, and enhancing international collaboration in the investigation and prosecution of corruption offences, as well as in the recovery of proceeds of corruption.

1375. The Heads of State and Government welcomed the on-going second review cycle which covers Chapters II on “Preventive Measures” and Chapter V on “Asset Recovery” of the Convention and is convinced that the review of these two chapters would produce tangible and useful results to support the efforts of all States Parties to effectively and fully implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

1376. The Heads of State and Government took *note* with appreciation of the establishment and functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and encouraged State Parties to the Convention to provide full support to the Review Mechanism.

1377. The Heads of State and Government *acknowledged* the importance of both the public and private sectors in preventing and combating corruption and in promoting a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability consistent with the “Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption”, adopted during the 4th Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Marrakech from 24 to 28 October 2011.

1378. The Heads of State and Government *took note of the* "Rabat Declaration" adopted at the International African Conference, held on 24-25 October 2023 in Rabat, Morocco, as a follow up to the Marrakech Declaration, emphasizing the importance of collective mobilization of all stakeholders, with a shared vision and an action for preventing and combating corruption and in promoting a culture of integrity, transparency and accountability.

1379. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the importance of enhancing cooperation and collaboration, in particular through the promotion of best practices in combating corruption

and welcomed the outcomes of the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Vienna, Austria, from 06 to 10 November 2017, Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 16 to 20 December 2019, and Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 2021, respectively.

1380. The Heads of State and Government noted with appreciation the high-level debate of the General Assembly marking the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, held in New York on 23 May 2018.

1381. The Heads of State and Government *reaffirmed* the comprehensive set of commitments contained in the political declaration entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation”, adopted at the first-ever special session of the General Assembly against corruption, held from 2 to 4 June 2021, which is a milestone in the efforts of the international community to prevent and combat corruption, including preventive measures, criminalization, law enforcement and asset recovery, and which reaffirmed also the strong commitment of the States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption step up the efforts to promote and effectively implement the anti-corruption obligations and robust commitments under the international anti-corruption architecture and the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing, including financing for development, and creating enabling environment at all levels, for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity.

1382. The Heads of State and Government *encouraged* Member States to utilize and strengthen appropriate focal points for facilitating information exchange. They recognized existing agreements, international formal forums, or networks for this purpose and acknowledged the Riyadh initiative for enhancing international anti-corruption law enforcement cooperation and that further acknowledged that as part of this initiative, the Global Operational Network for Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities was established under the auspices of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime”.

1383. The Heads of State and Government *urged* to proceed with the implementation of resolution 9/2 of 17 December 2021 of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, which commits to following up and building on the political declaration of the United Nations Special Session Against Corruption entitled “Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.

Annex I: Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement (121)

Afghanistan	Colombia	Haiti	Mozambique	Singapore
Algeria	Comoros	Honduras	Myanmar	Somalia
Angola	Congo	India	Namibia	South Africa
Antigua and Barbuda	Côte d'Ivoire	Indonesia	Nepal	South Sudan
Azerbaijan	Cuba	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Nicaragua	Sudan
Bahamas	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Iraq	Niger	Suriname
Bahrain	Djibouti	Jamaica	Nigeria	
Bangladesh	Dominica	Jordan	Oman	Syrian Arab Republic
Barbados	Dominican Republic	Kenya	Pakistan	Thailand
Belarus	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kuwait	Palestine	Timor-Leste
Belize	Ecuador	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Panama	Togo
Benin	Egypt	Lebanon	Papua New Guinea	Trinidad and Tobago
Bhutan	Equatorial Guinea	Lesotho	Peru	Tunisia
Bolivia	Eritrea	Liberia	Philippines	Turkmenistan
	Eswatini			
Botswana	Ethiopia	Libya	Qatar	Uganda
Brunei Darussalam	Fiji	Madagascar	Rwanda	United Arab Emirates
Burkina Faso	Gabon	Malawi	Saint Kitts and Nevis	United Republic of Tanzania
Burundi	Gambia	Malaysia	Saint Lucia	Uzbekistan
Cambodia	Ghana	Maldives	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Vanuatu
Cameroon	Grenada	Mali	Sao Tome and Principe	Venezuela
Cape Verde	Guatemala	Mauritania	Saudi Arabia	Vietnam
Central African Republic	Guinea	Mauritius	Senegal	Yemen
Chad	Guinea Bissau	Mongolia	Seychelles	Zambia
Chile	Guyana	Morocco	Sierra Leone	Zimbabwe

Annex II: The Founding Principles of the Non-Aligned Movement

1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations, large and small.
4. Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country.
5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
6. Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defence to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers, and abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries.
7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. Promotion of mutual interests and co-operation.
10. Respect for justice and international obligations.

Annex III: The Principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Purposes and Principles and the Role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Present International Juncture adopted in the 14th NAM Summit in Havana

- a. Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and International Law.
- b. Respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States.
- c. Recognition of the equality of all races, religions, cultures and all nations, both big and small.
- d. Promotion of a dialogue among peoples, civilizations, cultures and religions based on the respect of religions, their symbols and values, the promotion and the consolidation of tolerance and freedom of belief.
- e. Respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the effective implementation of the right of peoples to peace and development.
- f. Respect for the equality of rights of States, including the inalienable right of each State to determine freely its political, social, economic and cultural system, without any kind of interference whatsoever from any other State.
- g. Reaffirmation of the validity and relevance of the Movement's principled positions concerning the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination.
- h. Non-interference in the internal affairs of States. No State or group of States has the right to intervene either directly or indirectly, whatever the motive, in the internal affairs of any other State.
- i. Rejection of unconstitutional change of Governments.
- j. Rejection of attempts at regime change.
- k. Condemnation of the use of mercenaries in all situations, especially in conflict situations.
- l. Refraining by all countries from exerting pressure or coercion on other countries, including resorting to aggression or other acts involving the use of direct or indirect force, and the application and/or promotion of any coercive unilateral measure that goes against International Law or is in any way incompatible with it, for the purpose of coercing any other State to subordinate its sovereign rights, or to gain any benefit whatsoever.
- m. Total rejection of aggression as a dangerous and serious breach of International Law, which entails international responsibility for the aggressor.
- n. Respect for the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
- o. condemnation of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and systematic and gross violations of human rights, in accordance with the UN Charter and International Law.
- p. Rejection of and opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes, as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. In this context, terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation.
- q. Promotion of pacific settlement of disputes and abjuring, under any circumstances, from taking part in coalitions, agreements or any other kind of unilateral coercive initiative in violation of the principles of International Law and the Charter of the United Nations.
- r. Defence and consolidation of democracy, reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political,

economic, social, and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their life.

- s. Promotion and defence of multilateralism and multilateral organizations as the appropriate frameworks to resolve, through dialogue and cooperation, the problems affecting humankind.
- t. Support to efforts by countries suffering internal conflicts to achieve peace, justice, equality and development.
- u. The duty of each State to fully and in good faith comply with the international treaties to which it is a party, as well as to honour the commitments made in the framework of international organizations, and to live in peace with other States.
- v. Peaceful settlement of all international conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
- w. Defence and promotion of shared interests, justice and cooperation, regardless of the differences existing in the political, economic and social systems of the States, on the basis of mutual respect and the equality of rights.
- x. Solidarity as a fundamental component of relations among nations in all circumstances.
- y. Respect for the political, economic, social and cultural diversity of countries and peoples.