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**Statement by H.E Mr. Seyed Mohammad Reza Sajjadi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of
Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement

22nd session of the Human Rights Council

**High-level panel discussion to commemorate the twentieth anniversary
of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action**

Mr. President

It is a privilege and honor for me to deliver this statement on behalf of the NAM

Commemoration of 20th anniversary of the adoption of Vienna Declaration and Program of Action offers an inimitable opportunity to evaluate progress made on commitments therein. Definitely, the VDPA marked a turning point in the reaffirmation and augmentation of the concept and the role of the Right to Development in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The World Conference represents a milestone for the right to development. The VDPA reaffirms the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights. It stipulates that States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. Hence, the international community should promote an effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development.

Bearing in mind the UN Charter, the NAM *reaffirms* that 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.

Mr. President

The VDPA also recognizes 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. In this connection, the concept of an enabling international and national environment should be spelt out in greater detail and the national and international responsibilities should be better balanced.

Even if it remains a primary responsibility of a State to guarantee the realization of the Right to Development, the international community must support the development process by removing the international structural economic, financial and political obstacles and by acting according to the MDGs on a global partnership for development.

In this regard, the principle of solidarity can be seen as a cross-cutting criterion for the creation of an enabling environment to facilitate fulfilment of the right to development and the principle of subsidiarity as the dividing line between national and international responsibilities.

The NAM reiterates *the* role of South-South cooperation, as a complement to 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.

Finally, we maintain that the time has come for Member States of different coalitions to go from rhetoric to action bearing in mind that the life, well-being and respect for the human rights of billions of people around the world, depend on the implementation of the right to development and the establishment of an international social order founded on justice, development and peace.

Thank you