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Statement of NAM on the Update of the High Commissioner
(Agenda Item 2)

14/9/2009

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

At the outset, allow me to thank the High Commissioner for her presence with us this morning and for her statement. I would like also to acknowledge with appreciation the openness and eagerness the High Commissioner has shown during her first year of tenure for engagement with the member states. We look forward to continuing the dialogue with her and her office.

We share the call of the High Commissioner for all states to adhere to and to support recent major human rights instruments and declarations, namely the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

We also share the concern of the High Commissioner at the increasing targeting of civilians in armed conflicts. We urge all parties involved, directly or indirectly, in armed conflicts to fully adhere to their obligations in this regard according to the International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. States remain under obligation to end the state of impunity witnessed in many conflicts around the world.

NAM would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate the need to promote and respect all human rights of migrants, including those in detention centers. States have an obligation to respect the human rights of all individuals under their jurisdiction, including migrants, regardless of their immigration status. NAM strongly

supports the call made by the High Commissioner for ending the practice of mandatory detention of irregular migrants, their criminalization and ill-treatment.

Mr. President,

NAM welcomes the reference made by the High Commissioner to the review of the work and methods of the Council and will be ready to actively participate in the process to increase the effectiveness of the Council in the promotion and protection of all human rights.

I would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate few points that have been repeatedly emphasized by NAM in the previous dialogues with the High Commissioner, and we believe that the time is opportune to see some progress in this regard:

- 1- The need to resume dialogue on the relationship between the Council and the Office of the High Commissioner. This Dialogue was postponed one year ago to allow for better preparation on the part of the Office.
- 2- NAM is still of the view that the annual report of the Office, as well as its Strategic Framework and Strategic Management Plan should be presented and discussed, at the drafting state, in a formal meeting of the Council.
- 3- In spite of the repeated calls by NAM and other groups, there is still a persistent trend by some mandate holders to ignore the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council regulating their work. We call on the Office to assist the mandate holders to avoid such tendency.

To conclude, Mr. President, allow me to reiterate the commitment of the Non-Aligned Movement to work with all groups to ensure the success of this session.

Thank you.