POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF
THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) ON PALESTINE

1. The Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Committee on Palestine met on 05 April 2018 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on the margins of the Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Movement, taking into account the urgent need to address recent worrying developments in the international arena and on the ground, undermining the inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people and the prospects for the realization of a peaceful and just solution for the question of Palestine.

2. At the outset, the Ministers declared their firm commitment to the principles and positions regarding the question of Palestine adopted in previous Declarations by the Committee, including the Ministerial Declaration adopted on 22 February 2018 in regards to the provocative decision by the Government of the United States of America, on 6 December 2017, regarding Jerusalem, in contravention of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. They also recalled the positions affirmed by past Ministerial Meetings and Summits of the Movement regarding the question of Palestine, and reaffirmed their abiding solidarity with the Palestinian People and unwavering support for their just cause.

3. The Ministers stressed that a just, lasting solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects must remain a priority on the Movement’s agenda. Hence, the Ministers appealed to the Members of the Movement to renew their commitment and further strengthen and coordinate their efforts to promote the realization of justice and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian People, including to self-determination and independence.

4. The Ministers expressed deep regret at the passage of more than fifty years since the onset of Israel’s foreign occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands in 1967, and reflected on the passage of other solemn anniversaries, including the seventieth anniversary of the General Assembly’s decision to partition Mandate Palestine by its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and the ensuing Nakba in 1948, which tragically continues to be endured by the Palestinian People to this day.

5. The Ministers stressed the need for urgent collective efforts to advance a just and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions; to bring a halt to the grave violations of international law being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; and to alleviate the hardships being endured by the Palestinian People in the absence of a just solution. They expressed grave concern that the lack of accountability for violations has further emboldened Israel’s impunity, destabilized the situation on the ground, and diminished peace prospects, and deplored any support to or cooperation with Israel’s illegal actions and impunity.
6. The Ministers reaffirmed their readiness to contribute to the achievement of a just and peaceful solution, and called for the intensification of international and regional efforts for this objective, as called for by Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). They recalled in particular the responsibilities of the Security Council and the General Assembly, in accordance with the Charter and relevant resolutions.

7. The Ministers called for the urgent provision of political, economic and humanitarian support to assist the Palestinian People and support their efforts to realize their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and a just solution for the Palestine refugees, based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and to achieve genuine peace, security and coexistence.

8. The Ministers received a comprehensive briefing from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine regarding recent serious developments and efforts to salvage the prospects for peace. They reaffirmed their grave concerns regarding the current situation and stressed the need for urgent action to mobilize the international community, including the Security Council, in accordance with its Charter duties, to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to cease completely all illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; all acts of violence, provocation and incitement, including at Al-Haram Al-Sharif; its blockade of the Gaza Strip; its arrest of Palestinians and abuse of Palestinian prisoners; all measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population; and all other illegal practices and human rights violations.

9. The Ministers expressed deep concern about the impact of the continued absence of a credible political horizon for justly resolving the conflict and realizing the rights of the Palestinian People. They deeply deplored Israel’s continuing intransigence and obstruction of peace efforts and entrenchment of its fifty-year military occupation via various illegal schemes and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem - the territory that constitutes the State of Palestine, and expressed grave concern about the consequent human rights crisis and protection crisis being deliberately inflicted on the Palestinian People, and the deepening insecurity and humanitarian and socio-economic suffering they are enduring.

10. The Ministers reaffirmed the resolve of the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine, with the support of the Movement as a whole, to continue assisting the Palestinian People in their legitimate struggle for justice, dignity, peace and the exercise of their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees based on resolution 194 (III).
11. The Ministers called for increased efforts to bring about international efforts, in a collective process, aimed at achieving, without delay, an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, on the basis of relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, stressing that a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine is central for establishing peace and stability in the Middle East and globally.

12. The Ministers called for urgent efforts by States, individually and collectively, by all political, diplomatic and legal means, to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its violations. They stressed the need for consequences for Israel’s ongoing violations and blatant contempt of the Security Council and General Assembly and the relevant resolutions. The Member States of the Committee that are Party to the Rome Statute also affirmed the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) for addressing the 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.

13. The Ministers reiterated their call on all countries that have not recognized the State of Palestine to do so forthwith as an expression of their sincere commitment to peace based on the two-State solution and their respect for international law and legality. They stressed the importance of such actions in the current period as a contribution to preserving the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders and salvaging peace prospects.

14. The Ministers called on countries who have recognized the State of Palestine to publicly reaffirm that East Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Palestine. The Ministers also called on States to explicitly clarify that their recognition of diplomatic relations with Israel are also on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, and that no Israeli sovereignty is recognized over the 1967 line (1949 Armistice Line), including in East Jerusalem. They stressed that this too would be in line with their obligations under resolution 2334 (2016), specifically operative paragraphs 3 and 5 regarding non-recognition of any changes to the 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, and calling on all States to make this distinction in their dealings with Israel, the occupying Power.

15. The Ministers decided to support the initiatives of the State of Palestine at the UN and to coordinate positions to foster and mobilize the support of Member States. They stressed in this regard the importance of the unity and support of the Member States of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council. They welcomed the peace proposal presented by H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas to the Security Council on 20 February 2018, and supported his call for an international peace conference based on the longstanding parameters and terms of reference.
of the peace process in accordance with the relevant resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, and called for active efforts and coordination to advance this initiative.

16. The Ministers reiterated the urgency of providing support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), following the decision of the Government of the United States of America to drastically reduce funding to the Agency, undermining its provision of vital humanitarian and development assistance to the Palestine refugees. They called on all States to continue to support the works of the Agency to ensure the continuity of its assistance, in line with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, with a view for it to meet rising refugee needs, and to prevent the decline of humanitarian conditions and further destabilization among the Palestine refugee population throughout the region. They welcomed the participation of several NAM Member States in the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference in support of UNRWA, held on 15 March 2018 in Rome, and urged continued follow-up and support for these efforts, as well as all efforts aimed at providing the Palestinian people with the necessary humanitarian, socio-economic and development assistance to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation that they continue to endure under the Israeli occupation, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and strengthen their national capacity.

17. The Ministers called for the redoubling of international efforts, at the governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental levels, to realize these noble objectives as rapidly as possible, stressing that a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine is central for establishing peace and stability in the Middle East. They called for the follow-up and implementation of all proposed measures adopted in past Ministerial Declarations, Ministerial Meetings and Summits of the Movement regarding the question of Palestine, with a view to countering the recent negative and dangerous developments, enhancing solidarity with the Palestinian people and their leadership at this critical time, and salvaging the prospects for a just and peaceful solution.

18. The Ministers pledged to remain in constant contact and coordination, in order to uphold the principles and positions declared herein in support of a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine, and its attainment without delay, and in solidarity with the Palestinian People at this critical moment.

Baku, 05 April 2018