



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF
AGENDA ITEM 55, ENTITLED “REPORT OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES”, WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

New York, 13 November 2018

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf of the 120 Member States comprising the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. At the outset, allow us to express our gratitude to the Chair of the Special Committee and to its other members for their much valuable efforts, as well as for the detailed and comprehensive report contained in document A/73/45704, of which we have taken note of, including the very concrete and important recommendations contained therein.

Mr. President,

3. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) deeply regrets that the inquiries of the Special Committee continue to yield negative results, as the report details a worsening human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly with regards to the escalation of violence against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, and the ongoing dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, including as a result of the illegal Israeli blockade that has been in place for over eleven years. The dire human rights situation and humanitarian crisis being endured by the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation has also been thoroughly confirmed by the reports of other UN agencies on the ground and the UN Country Team. Thus, the Movement reiterates its deep concern that Israel, the occupying Power, refused yet again to recognize and cooperate with the Special Committee, preventing it from observing the human rights situation on the ground firsthand, from holding consultations with the relevant Israeli authorities, and from gaining access to victims in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and other Occupied Territories, within the framework of and in fulfillment of its mandate, as called for by the UN General Assembly.



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4. The Member States of the Movement condemn, in particular, Israel's continuing settlement construction and expansion activities throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the Occupied Syrian Golan. The Special Committee has been reporting on such illegal activities now for decades and, despite the calls of the international community, Israel, the occupying Power, persists with total impunity. All such measures and activities are illegal under international law, including under the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), and must be completely and immediately ceased. They clearly remain at the core of many of the human rights violations being perpetrated by the occupying Power, constituting the main obstacle to peace and directly threatening the viability of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders.
5. These illegal measures of colonization and other systematic violations by Israel, including the continued expansion of settlements and the wall and related infrastructure; the demolition of homes and the confiscation of land and property; the exploitation of natural resources; the forced displacement and threat of forced transfer of Palestinian civilians, including in particular Bedouin communities; severe restrictions on movement; the revocation of residency rights in Occupied East Jerusalem; the arrest and administrative detention of Palestinian civilians, including children; incessant violence and excessive use of force, terror and provocations by Israeli settlers, extremists, and security forces, including at the holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly at Al-Aqsa Mosque, and in the context of demonstrations along the Gaza fence; obstruction of humanitarian access and attacks on medical personnel and destruction of humanitarian aid; discrimination and lack of accountability in the justice system; and other measures of collective punishment, have gravely worsened conditions on the ground, causing immense human suffering, further destabilizing the situation and exacerbating high tensions.

Mr. President,

6. In addition to constituting grave breaches of international humanitarian law, these ongoing illegal practices of colonization, which may amount to war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), have blatantly escalated in the recent period, in clear contempt of the global calls for Israel's compliance with the norms of international law and cessation of all such activities. It is high time to end this abhorrent Israeli occupation, which has passed its 50th year in flagrant violation of international law and countless General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016).



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7. Furthermore, according to the Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, while affecting every aspect of life, Israel's policies and practices also continue to violate fundamental human rights and the dignity of the Palestinian people and other Arabs living under its occupation. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is seriously concerned about the disturbing findings of the report, particularly regarding military incursions and raids by the Israeli occupying forces and excessive use of force, including against Palestinian youth and peaceful protesters in the Gaza Strip and in many parts of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, on an almost daily basis, including in and around densely-populated Palestine refugee camps.
8. The ongoing dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip due to the illegal Israeli blockade and the destructive impact of successive military aggressions are also of great concern to the Movement. This situation constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian and human rights law and requires immediate attention. Urgent efforts are required to alleviate the suffering and hardships of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, including those internally displaced and those suffering from food insecurity, loss of livelihoods and widespread poverty, and to reverse the severe de-development trajectory there. The Movement thus calls again for the acceleration of long-delayed reconstruction and economic recovery, while stressing the important role of UNRWA in providing vital assistance to the refugee population in Gaza and reiterating the call for strong support for its mandate and its humanitarian and development efforts.
9. Moreover, the Movement also calls upon Israel, yet again, to promptly and unconditionally end its illegal blockade of Gaza and open all its crossing points in accordance with international humanitarian law and all UN resolutions, including Security Council resolution 1860 (2009).

Mr. President,

10. In the reporting period, Israeli settler violence and incitement continued to result in Palestinian civilian casualties and the destruction of property and was reported to be a factor that contributed to forcing Palestinians off their land. Harassment, intimidation and attacks, many constituting terror, by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, continue unabatedly. The transfer of Israeli settlers and all such illegal settlement activities are undermining the contiguity of the Palestinian land and the viability of the Palestinian State, and thus imperiling the two-State solution, while also violating the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, in addition to affecting significantly their social, cultural and religious rights.
11. At the same time, the occupying Power has used several so-called "legal" and "administrative" measures to expand its control and advance its attempts to *de facto*



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annex more Palestinian territory, including the declaration of areas as "State land", the seizure of land for archaeological excavations, the creation of national parks and the development of tourist activities serving the occupation in the Palestinian land, as well as the imposition of other illegitimate schemes and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem .

12. In this connection, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) categorically condemns the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of Palestine by the occupying Power, which deliberately denies Palestinians right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and their right to development, and perpetuates their state of dependence regarding, among others, water and energy resources.
13. The Movement thus reiterates its call for urgent action and practical measures by the international community, in particular by the Security Council, to compel the occupying Power to abide forthwith and scrupulously to all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, to the many relevant UN resolutions, and to the ICJ Advisory Opinion. It is urgent to uphold international law, to alleviate the human rights crisis and protection crisis prevailing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; to avert further human suffering and ensure protection of the civilian population; to stop the escalation and further destabilization of the situation on the ground; and to salvage the prospects for peace, on the basis of the two-State solution.
14. In this context, the Member States of the Movement reiterate their grave concern about the lack of accountability for all the violations committed by Israel, which fosters impunity and destabilizes the situation on the ground, while diminishing the prospects for peace. Hence, we continue to call for international action, particularly by the Security Council, to ensure accountability for and a cessation of the violations committed by the occupying Power. Israel must comply with its duties and responsibilities under international law. In this regard, we also stress the importance of the recent report by the Secretary-General on the protection of the Palestinian civilian population and of the urgency of follow-up on the recommendations contained therein to ensure the safety and well-being of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law.

Mr. President,

15. Now, turning to the Syrian Golan, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms once again that all unlawful actions by Israel, the Occupying Power, since 1967, including discriminatory and illegal policies towards the Syrian population; the continued deployment of landmines and the presence of Israeli army bases in and around Syrian residential and civilian areas; the construction and expansion of settlements; and recent



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attempts of Israel to exercise sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan, including through the convening of local elections in four Syrian villages; constitute a clear violation of international law, the UN Charter and relevant resolutions, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981), and the Fourth Geneva Convention. In this regard, the Movement demands that Israel abides by resolution 497, and withdraw completely from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967.

16. Lastly, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), in line with the decisions adopted during the XVIII Mid-Term Ministerial Conference, held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, stresses, inter alia, the urgency of achieving a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and a long-overdue objective of the Movement, on the basis of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. In this regard, we conclude by reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the immediate restoration of the inalienable rights of the heroic Palestinian people to self-determination, and their right to their independent and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

I thank you, Mr. President.