



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



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. SAMUEL MONCADA,
AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE EXTRAORDINARY
ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE**

Istanbul, 18 May 2018

Mr. President,

1. It is with a great level of responsibility that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela takes the floor on behalf of the 120 Member States that comprise the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at this Emergency Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to address a matter to which we have historically attached particular importance.

Mr. President,

2. Over five months ago, the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) issued a Communiqué expressing its grave concern regarding ongoing violations being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including attempts aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the City of Jerusalem, particularly at the recognition of the City of Jerusalem as “the capital of Israel” and the declared intentions and plans announced at that time by the Government of the United States of America to transfer its Embassy in Israel to the City of Jerusalem. We were clear in cautioning at that time that such provocative, unilateral and illegal actions will only further heighten tensions, with potentially far-reaching repercussions.
3. Unfortunately, the Member States of the Movement were not mistaken. Back in April tensions were increased in Gaza after Palestinian civilians engaged in the “Great March of Return”, a peaceful civilian protest against Israel’s illegal occupation, oppression and dispossession of the Palestinian people for a half-century, and which resulted in various casualties and many injured. Now, the most recent episode of violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly along the Gaza border with Israel, has taken place against a volatile backdrop marked by the tensions that were sparked after the unilateral and provocative inauguration on 14 May 2018 of the Embassy of the United States of America to Israel in the City of Jerusalem, in contravention of the provisions of relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council, of which it is a permanent member.



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



4. In the last hours, peaceful demonstrations have taken a toll of over 58 innocent lives, including children, and more than 2,000 injured. This massacre is nothing more than the result of the repressive security forces of the Occupying Power, who has disproportionately engaged in the use of force against Palestinian civilians. An independent and transparent investigation of these killings must be conducted. Otherwise, this move will only serve to embolden Israel to carry out policies and practices to further consolidate its control and unlawful *de facto* annexation of the City.
5. The current situation is therefore unsustainable. The most tragic events in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are the proof of the need for the international community to redouble its efforts to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspect and in accordance with international law. The preservation and realization of the two-State solution is an imperative, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, in respect of the longstanding terms of reference of a peace settlement endorsed by the international community, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, including the principle of land for peace, and the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap.

Mr. President,

6. Before concluding let us reaffirm five (05) points, and stress yet again that only a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Question of Palestine will allow us to achieve the long-sought peace in the Middle East region.
 - a) This week, which marks 70 years since the tragic Nakba of the Palestinian people in 1948, we reaffirm our abiding solidarity with the heroic Palestinian people and our unwavering support for their just cause, 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 to achieving a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees based on resolution 194 (III). We must put an end without further delay to the prolonged tragedy and suffering of the Palestinian people.
 - b) Moreover, we reiterate our grave concern about the lack of accountability for all the violations committed by Israel, which do nothing more but foster impunity, and further destabilize the situation on the ground and diminish peace prospects. Hence, we call for international action, particularly by the Security Council, to ensure accountability for and a cessation of the violations being committed by the occupying Power. Israel must comply with its duties and responsibilities in virtue of international law, and the international community must ensure the protection of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and across the Occupied Palestinian



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



Territory, including East Jerusalem, in order to address the dire state of insecurity of the occupied population and prevent the loss of more innocent human life.

- c) We reaffirm the validity of all relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council in relation to the Question of Palestine, including the status of Jerusalem, which are legally binding to all Member States of the United Nations and must therefore be fully and effectively implemented. Such respect, particularly of resolutions 476 (1980), 478 (1980) and 2334 (2016), is essential for calming and rectifying the current situation and advancing the prospects for peace. Similarly, the Security Council must uphold its Charter duties and must therefore act to uphold its own resolutions and maintain its credibility.
- d) Consequently, we reaffirm that Jerusalem is a final status issue in the Middle East peace process, as well as the call for diplomatic missions to be withdrawn from the Holy City, in line with the provisions of Security Council resolution 478 (1980) and, most recently, resolution ES-10/19 of the General Assembly, adopted by an overwhelming majority on 21 December 2017.
- e) Lastly, we reiterate our call on the U.S. Government to reverse its decision of 6 December 2017 and the move of its Embassy of 14 May 2018, and to act in conformity with the relevant UN resolutions and in a manner that will salvage the prospects for a just solution and ensure, without delay, a future of peace, security, prosperity and dignity for both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

I thank you, Mr. President.