



**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 QUARTERLY OPEN
DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON “THE SITUATION IN THE
MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION”**

New York, 18 October 2018

Mr. President,

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at this quarterly open debate on a matter to which we have historically attached special importance; namely, the Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine.

Mr. President,

2. At the outset, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) seizes this opportunity to reaffirm once again its abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people and its unwavering support for their just cause, particularly in the current juncture, when the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is beyond critical and clearly unsustainable.
3. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement further reaffirm, yet again, that the ongoing Israeli occupation and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as a whole continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, which requires urgent attention and remedy, in accordance with international law, the relevant UN resolutions and, of course, the UN Charter itself and the tools provided by multilateral diplomacy. The Security Council has a clear responsibility. It must uphold its Charter duties and it must act to uphold its own resolutions, which not only comprise the foundation for a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the conflict, but are on top of that legally binding to all UN Member States.
4. Moreover, we remain ready to contribute to the achievement of a peaceful, just and lasting solution of the conflict, as reiterated as recently as 26 September 2018, when the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine adopted a Political Declaration on this question, which was unanimously endorsed by the wider membership of our Movement.



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5. In this vein, we seize this opportunity to call for the exertion and intensification of all necessary international and regional efforts in support of this objective, which ultimate goal is nothing less but to bring an end to this injustice; to more than 51 years of the Israeli foreign occupation of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and over 70 years of the *Nakba*, which we must recall what it is and its human dimension: the catastrophe and tragedy that befell the Palestinian people in 1948, by which they lost their homeland and by which the majority of Palestinians were forcibly uprooted from their homes and displaced, becoming refugees, whose plight continues until this day.

Mr. President,

6. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) still believe that Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) provides the most viable path to peace, setting forth the essential requirements and parameters for a just solution, which would realize the two-State solution on the pre-1967 lines, in respect of the longstanding terms of reference of peace endorsed by the international community, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, and ensure the fulfillment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and independence in their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Hence, we call for its full and effective implementation; the Security Council must insist on respect for this resolution, particularly by the occupying Power.
7. Similarly, the Member States of the Movement continue to call for the full respect and implementation of all other relevant resolutions in this regard, for it is this that would create the necessary conditions to bring an end the occupation, justly resolve the conflict in all its aspects, and make Palestinian-Israeli peace and security a reality, for the benefit of both peoples, for the region and for the international community as a whole. It is therefore imperative that action be taken immediately, in line with international law and UN resolutions, to redress the situation on the ground, de-escalate tensions, and foster an appropriate environment for the pursuit of peace, including by averting unilateral, provocative or arbitrary measures that only serve to embolden Israel to further pursue its illegal policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.
8. Moreover, we seize this opportunity to refer to the ongoing severe funding crisis being faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and to reaffirm the urgency of providing it sustained, predictable and uninterrupted support, particularly following the punitive and unjustified decision of the U.S. Government to terminate its funding to the Agency, which not only targets the most vulnerable segment of Palestinian people by undermining the provision of vital



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humanitarian and development assistance to them but also threatens the entire region's stability. Similarly, we join UNRWA in expressing our concern over the recent and irresponsible announcement of Israeli authorities to close the Agency's offices in the Occupied East Jerusalem.

Mr. President,

9. In relation to Gaza, the situation remains of great concern to the Movement, particularly the grave humanitarian situation, which regrettably continues to deteriorate day by day. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates its call for the complete lifting of the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, which continues to impose untold humanitarian, social and economic suffering on the more than 2 million Palestinian children, women and men there. It must be stressed once again that the crisis in Gaza must be comprehensively addressed, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and the relevant UN resolutions, in the context of the overall situation of the continuation of the illegitimate, belligerent, Israeli foreign occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967, and of the unequivocal calls for an end to this half-century occupation.
10. Moreover, as Israel has clearly abdicated its obligations as the occupying Power to protect the civilian Palestinian population, in respect of the IV Geneva Convention, the Movement calls for the international community to ensure the protection of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and across the Occupied Palestinian 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. In this connection, 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.
11. We stress that failure to provide protection to the Palestinian people will only lead to further escalation and tragically result in more bloodshed, as evidenced in the number of Palestinian civilians, including children, killed and injured in recent weeks, while further reiterating our concern that the Security Council has been for too long unable to fulfill its mandate on this important question due to the use of veto by one permanent member.
12. With regard to the situation in the Occupied Syrian Golan, we reaffirm that all measures and actions taken, or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, such as its illegal decision of 14 December 1981 that purports to alter its legal, physical and



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demographic status and its institutional structure, as well as the Israeli measures to apply its jurisdiction and administration there, are null and void and have no legal effect. In this regard, and in line with our principled position, we demand once again that Israel abide by Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and withdraw fully from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the lines of 4 June 1967, in implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

13. To conclude, Mr. President, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms its abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people, as well as its unwavering support for their just cause, while renewing its commitment to further strengthen and coordinate the international efforts to promote a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Question of Palestine in all its aspects, including for the plight of the Palestine refugees based on resolution 194 (III). We further reaffirm our strong commitment to continue supporting the heroic Palestinian people in their quest to achieve justice and fulfill their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including their right to self-determination, freedom and independence in their sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

I thank you, Mr. President.