



**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), ON THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL
RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES OCCUPIED SINCE 1967, WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

New York, 24 October 2018

Mr. President,

1. It is an honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf of the 120 Member States that comprise the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
2. At the outset, we would like to express our appreciation for the briefing and the work of Mr. Michael Lynk, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied since 1967, to whom we pledge our support in the fulfillment of his mandate.

Mr. President,

3. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms 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.
4. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement further reaffirm their deep regret that since 1967, for over fifty years, the Palestinian people have continuously suffered under the brutal Israeli military occupation of their land and continue to be denied their fundamental human rights, including the right to self-determination. Time has come to redress this historic injustice which they have bravely endured, and to achieve a lasting and sustained peace, which is in the interest of both Palestinians and Israelis, and of benefit for both the region and the international community as a whole.
5. In this regard, we seize this opportunity to condemn Israel's continuing military occupation of the Palestinian Territory in breach of international law and UN resolutions, as well as the continuing brutal Israeli military campaign against the defenseless Palestinian people by which the occupying Power has continued to



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commit grave human rights violations and reported war crimes, including by use of excessive, indiscriminate force that over the years has killed and injured thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, and has caused vast destruction of properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands.

Mr. President,

6. During the XVIII NAM Mid-Term Ministerial Conference, held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers reiterated their grave concern about the grave situation in the Gaza Strip due to the lasting impact of the Israeli military aggression of July and August 2014, which they condemned in the strongest terms, as it caused massive human and physical devastation. They also expressed grave concern over the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis there, as the entire Palestinian civilian population of over 2 million continues to be inhumanely isolated, besieged and deprived by the decade-long illegal Israeli blockade – a blockade that constitutes massive collective punishment and a grave breach of international humanitarian and human rights law, and which we call to be immediately and completely lifted.
7. 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, based on the two-State solution, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. 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, and justice shall be realized for all the victims.
8. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) calls for urgent efforts to further support the development and strengthening of Palestinian national institutions, stressing the importance of this effort in laying strong foundations for the independence of the State of Palestine. In this connection, we strongly welcome the important step taken by several members of the international community in extending official recognition to the State of Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders, which constitute a significant contribution to sustaining momentum towards the ultimate realization of independence. Finally, we 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 independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I thank you, Mr. President.