



**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, 25 January 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 particular importance; namely, the Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine.
2. At the outset, we would like to transmit our gratitude to [briefers] for their much valuable briefings to the Council.

**Mr. President,**

3. Against the backdrop of an ongoing critical situation and diminishing prospects for peace, including as a result of recent provocative, unilateral actions in Jerusalem, in violation of Security Council resolutions, and the negative impact of such actions, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) seizes this opportunity to reaffirm its abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people, as well as its unwavering support for their just cause.
4. At this critical juncture, and recognizing the paramount importance of the resumption of negotiations for the achievement of a just and peaceful solution, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions, the Movement renews 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 the realization of justice and the fulfilment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence, and urges all parties and Member States involved to move in that direction. This objective remains a priority on the Movement's agenda, as continuously reaffirmed at the highest levels. One example of the importance we attach to this matter and to addressing the current crisis is the convening of an Extraordinary Meeting of the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine, this coming Saturday, 27 January 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the margins of the 30<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.



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**Mr. President,**

5. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms 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 United Nations resolutions and, of course, the UN Charter itself. The Security Council must uphold its Charter duties in this regard and must act to uphold its own resolutions, which comprise the foundation for a peaceful, just and lasting solution of the conflict.
6. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement remain ready to contribute to the achievement of such a solution. Hence, we call for the intensification of international and regional efforts in support of this objective, while recalling the responsibilities of the Security Council and General Assembly in this regard, including as most recently reaffirmed in Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), which was strongly welcomed and supported by the Movement. We believe that this resolution provides the most viable path to peace, setting forth the essential requirements and parameters for a just solution, which would preserve the two-State solution on the 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.
7. In addition, the Movement continues to call for full respect and implementation of all the relevant resolutions in this regard, for it is this that would create the necessary conditions to end the occupation, justly resolve the conflict in all its aspects, and make Palestinian-Israeli peace and security a reality. It is imperative that action be taken immediately, in line with UN resolutions, to redress the situation on the ground, de-escalate tensions, and foster an appropriate environment for the pursuit of peace. Provocations, unilateral actions and escalation of tensions are totally incompatible with the pursuit of peace and can neither be rationalized, nor accepted. Clearly, contempt for the Security Council and disregard of UN resolutions can only exacerbate the situation with further grave consequences; a situation that must be averted.

**Mr. President,**

8. Today, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) joins the overwhelming international consensus in expressing its grave concern regarding recent developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular since the decision unilaterally announced by certain governments to transfer their Embassies to Israel to the City of Jerusalem. In line with the Communiqué issued by the Movement on 05



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December 2017, we reject these and any other related actions aimed at consolidating Israel's control and unlawful *de facto* annexation of the City.

9. In this regard, we recall and reaffirm the provisions of Security Council resolution 478 (1980), which expressly called upon “*those States that have established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw such missions from the Holy City*”. Moreover, we reaffirm that any attempt aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the City of Jerusalem, as affirmed in relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, have no legal effect and are null and void, and also stress that Jerusalem is a final status issue to be resolved through negotiations. We further reaffirm all Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relating to Jerusalem, and confirm that it is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
10. Unilateral actions of that nature, in flagrant disrespect of Security Council resolutions, apart from jeopardizing the possibility of achieving the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders, could seriously destabilize the fragile situation on the ground with dangerous impact, as currently seen today, when Israel, the occupying Power, has ever since intensified its illegal and inhumane policies in Occupied Palestine, including in East Jerusalem, and including through the enactment of laws aimed at further entrenching its fifty-year foreign occupation and facilitating its illegal acquisition of territory by force through annexationist measures, which are prohibited by international law and by this very Council. In addition, such actions could potentially have far-reaching repercussions to the future of the two-State solution to the conflict, as prescribed by the Council, reason why they must be fully condemned and rejected.

**Mr. President,**

11. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) strongly condemns the recent provocative decisions of Israel, the occupying Power, to proceed with its settlement activities in grave breach of international law and in direct and deliberate violation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). We are alarmed by and deeply deplore such flagrant contempt by the occupying Power of the unequivocal determination by the Security Council in this regard, which clearly reaffirmed that Israel's settlement activities have no legal validity and constitute flagrant violations under international law, and which called on Israel to immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to fully respect all of its legal obligations, including under the Fourth Geneva Convention.
12. In relation to Gaza, the situation remains of great concern to the Movement, particularly the grave humanitarian situation. In this regard, the Movement reiterates its call for the



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complete lifting of the 10-year-long Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, which continues to impose untold humanitarian, social and economic suffering on more than 2 million Palestinian children, women and men there. The Movement stresses 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.

13. In light of the current situation on the ground, threats against UNRWA could result in nothing less than a humanitarian disaster in Gaza, with also potential destabilizing consequences in host countries. Consequently, the Movement urges States to urgently extend needed support to UNRWA, in line with humanitarian principles, relevant resolutions and the abiding international responsibility towards the Palestine question, in order to ensure the continuity of its vital assistance to the Palestine refugees, pending a just solution to their plight.

### **Mr. President,**

14. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms 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 the legal, physical and demographic status of the occupied Syrian Golan 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 abides 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).
15. In addition, the Member States of the Movement emphasize the necessity to have Israel withdraw from all Lebanese territories including Shebaa Farms, Kfarshouba Hills and the Lebanese part of Al Ghajar village up until behind the Blue line, in accordance with relevant international resolutions and in particular resolution 1701.
16. To conclude, while reiterating its calls for the intensification of international efforts aimed at achieving without further delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and the long-overdue objective of a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms its longstanding support and solidarity with this just cause, as well as its strong commitment to continue supporting the heroic Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including their right to self-determination, freedom and



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independence in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, which is vital for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and sustainable peace. Only a comprehensive solution to the Question of Palestine will allow us to achieve the long-sought peace in the Middle East region and to finally resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.

I thank you, Mr. President.