



**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), IN OCCASION OF THE SPECIAL
MEETING IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

New York, 28 November 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 comprising the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) during this solemn meeting in observance of the “International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”.
2. At the outset, we would like to express, on behalf of the Member States of the Movement, our deep appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this special meeting. We also thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council for their participation in this solemn observance and their important remarks.
3. Today, we also wish to renew our appreciation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its important work in promoting the just cause and rights of the Palestinian people, and to the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat of the United Nations for its much valuable assistance and support.
4. Similarly, the Movement reaffirms its sincere appreciation to the Commissioner-General and the entire staff of UNRWA for all of their much valuable efforts, in adverse conditions, in helping to alleviate the suffering and address the plight and needs of the Palestine refugees, as well as to all of the United Nations agencies with special programs providing vital assistance and support to the Palestinian people, in line with the permanent responsibility of the United Nations and the international community towards the Question of Palestine until a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution is achieved.

Mr. President,

5. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) fully supports the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, as it serves as a prominent occasion for



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reflecting on the continuing injustice and dire situation being endured by the Palestinian people across the decades, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and including in the blockaded Gaza Strip, due to the continuing denial of their inalienable rights by Israel, the occupying Power.

6. After more than half a century of foreign occupation that has subjected the Palestinian people to gross and systematic human rights violations and untold pain and suffering and seventy-one years since the General Assembly decision to partition Mandate Palestine and the ensuing *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 both displaced and dispossessed, becoming refugees, whose plight continues until this day. It is clear that the Palestinian question lies at the heart of, and is among the root causes of so many of the other crises and dilemmas we witness today in the Middle East. This International Day of Solidarity thus provides an opportunity for renewing our shared commitment to a just and lasting solution for the Question of Palestine and ultimately to a durable peace in the Middle East as a whole. We make vows for one day this solidarity and support be translated into real change for the Palestinian people and the ultimate goal of peace.
7. In the interconnected world we live in today, in which we face multiple, complex and newly emerging threats and challenges to international peace and security, we believe that multilateralism has become much more relevant and essential than ever before. The situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine, is one that must be resolved through a multilateral process and diplomatic efforts, within the framework of international law and relevant resolutions, and through peaceful means. We are all aware that therein lays the solution. In this vein, allow us to stress from the outset that it is imperative that collective action be taken immediately 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.

Mr. President,

8. From the very establishment of the United Nations, the Question of Palestine has been on its agenda. Over seven decades have passed, and yet the Palestinian people continue to be deprived of their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and freedom. They are still counting on the effective contribution of the United Nations, in accordance with international law and the relevant resolutions, for fulfilling their aspirations of achieving the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine.



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9. Despite decades of their participation in peace efforts, in good-faith; despite their proven commitment to the two-State solution for peace; despite their adherence to international law; and despite the painful compromises made, the Palestinians' plight has worsened on all fronts and the situation on the ground is dramatically deteriorating due to Israel's persistent illegal policies and practices, which have further destabilized and exacerbated the situation on the ground, undermined all peace efforts and obstructed justice over these many years, holding hostage the lives and future of generations of Palestinians.
10. As the Security Council remains silent and paralyzed on this issue, in spite of its Charter duties, the international community continues to witness in horror Israel's brutal military occupation in all its manifestations, in breach of international law and the relevant resolutions of both the General Assembly and the Security Council. Under the umbrella of this unjust occupation, the occupying Power continues its oppression and collective punishment of the defenseless and innocent Palestinian people and continues to perpetrate grave human rights violations and reported war crimes. This includes, *inter alia*, the use of military force against civilians leading to death and injury, including among children; the colonization of Palestinian land through the confiscation of land, demolition of homes, construction of settlements and the wall, exploitation of natural resources, and the transfer of hundreds of thousands of Israeli settlers to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; the unlawful detention and imprisonment and administrative detention of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children and women; and the inhumane and illegal blockade being imposed on the Gaza Strip for eleven years now.
11. In light of this continuing illegal and unjust situation, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) also calls once again for measures to be taken in accordance with international law to remedy the violation of the human rights of the Palestinians, including through the provision of protection to the Palestinian people for as long as this occupation continues.

Mr. President,

12. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) condemns Israel's continuing military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, in breach of international law and UN resolutions. In this regard, we further condemn the illegal Israeli settlement activities by which the occupying Power has continued to colonize the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to forcibly displace Palestinian civilians in grave breach of international law and Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). We also condemn the provocations and incitement by groups of extremist settlers, including against the holy sites in occupied East Jerusalem, including Al-Haram and Al-Sharif, and the vandalization of mosques and churches which are fueling tensions and religious



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sensitivities that risk further destabilization. Consequently, we demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all such violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and fully abide by its legal obligations, including under the IV Geneva Convention, and that it respects the sanctity of Holy Sites and the historic *status quo* in place for decades.

13. Israel must cease all attempts and measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status, character and geographic nature of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and facilitating the *de facto* annexation of more Palestinian land. All such measures have been deemed to be illegal by the Security Council, as well as by the International Court of Justice, and are grossly violating the human rights of the Palestinian people and undermining the realization of just and lasting peace on the basis of the two-State solution, on the pre-1967 borders, the viability of which the occupying Power is destroying on a daily basis.

Mr. President,

14. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) also demands once again the full and immediate lifting and ending of the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israel, which continues to severely impair all aspects of life of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza and constitutes a massive collective punishment. This inhumane blockade continues to impede the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip from the devastation inflicted by the Israeli occupying forces in 2014, and obstructs economic recovery and development due to lack of sustained and regular movement of persons and goods between the Strip and the outside world, including the link, unity and movement between Gaza and the West Bank.
15. The Member States of the Movement are of the view that a real change in the situation on the ground requires an end to all of the occupation's illegal measures and their reversal towards bringing this occupation to an end. It is unacceptable that Israel, the occupying Power, continues to pursue all the above mentioned illegal and deplorable activities with blatant impunity despite the prohibitions of such actions under international law. Intensified, coordinated efforts, including measures of accountability, must be undertaken by the international community to compel Israel to immediately cease all of its illegal policies and practices, including to commit it to the path of peace long-endorsed by the international community.
16. Moreover, we reiterate our grave concern about the lack of accountability for all the violations committed by Israel, which fuels a culture of 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



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for and a cessation of the violations. Israel must comply with its duties and responsibilities under international law.

Mr. President,

17. The solidarity of the international community with the just Palestinian cause must also be directed to all relevant efforts in support of the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine in all of the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel in 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the relevant resolutions, and to support the admission of Palestine to the United Nations as a full Member State.
18. Furthermore, considering the lack of significant advances in the Middle East peace process, which remains stalled despite decades of negotiations, during the XVIII NAM Mid-Term Ministerial Conference, held in April 2018, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministers of the Movement stressed the urgent need for advancing a political horizon and credible peace process firmly based on relevant Security Council resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap. We support immediate and practical efforts in support of this objective for the ultimate achievement of a just solution and lasting peace.
19. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates on this important day its unwavering commitment to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the question of Palestine at its core, and to the immediate restoration of the inalienable rights of the heroic Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to their independent, contiguous and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the basis of pre-1967 borders, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194 (III). It is such a just solution that will guarantee the peace that the international community and the Palestinian people have long searched for and should remain committed to in order to usher in a new era of peace and stability for the region. As we have said before, 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.