



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

New York, 29 April 2019

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. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) seizes this opportunity from the very outset to reaffirm once again its abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people and its unwavering support for their inalienable rights and 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, once 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.
4. The Security Council has a clear responsibility in ensuring the maintenance of international peace and security. It must uphold its Charter duties and it must act to implement its very 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. We are deeply concerned that this body has been for too long unable to fulfill its mandate on this important question due to the use of veto by one permanent member.

Mr. President,



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5. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) still believes that Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) provides the only viable path to peace, setting forth the essential requirements and parameters for the achievement of a just solution on the basis of the two-State solution on the pre-1967 lines, in accordance with the longstanding terms of reference of peace endorsed by the international community; namely, the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, and ensuring 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, particularly by the occupying Power.
6. Similarly, the Member States of the Movement continue to call for the full respect and implementation of all other relevant resolutions, including with regards to the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities and with regards to the status of Occupied East Jerusalem, 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.
7. We reiterate that it is imperative that action be taken immediately, in line with international law and relevant 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.

Mr. President,

8. In relation to the Gaza Strip, 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, which continues to impose untold humanitarian, social and economic suffering on the more than 2 million Palestinian children, women and men in Gaza. It must be stressed once again that this crisis 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 over half-century occupation.



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9. 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 Member States of the Movement reiterate their call for the international community to ensure the protection of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and across the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in order to alleviate the dire state of insecurity of the occupied population and prevent the loss of more innocent human life. Failure to do so can only lead to further and repeated escalations and the tragic loss of more civilian lives.
10. In this connection, we reiterate our grave concern about the lack of accountability for all the violations committed by Israel, many of which may amount to crimes of war. The absence of justice only fosters greater impunity, leads the recurrence of crimes and destabilizes the situation on the ground, further diminishing the prospects for peace, as highlighted by the findings of the Independent Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council on the 2018 protests in the Gaza Strip. Hence, we continue to call for international action, particularly by this Security Council, to ensure a cessation of, and accountability for, the violations that are being systematically committed by the occupying Power against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation. Israel must comply with its duties and responsibilities under international law.

Mr. President,

11. With regard to the situation in the Occupied Syrian Golan, 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 its legal, physical and demographic status and its institutional structure, as well as the Israeli measures to apply its jurisdiction and administration there, including its most recent attempt to exercise sovereignty therein through the convening of local elections in four Syrian villages, 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). In addition, we condemn the unilateral and arbitrary proclamation of the United States on "Recognizing the Golan Heights as part of Israel", and call on this Security Council to condemn this provocative act.
12. Moreover, 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.



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13. To conclude, we seize this opportunity to reiterate our call for the international community to act collectively, with responsibility, to uphold international law and to exert and intensify all necessary efforts in support of the Palestinian cause, the ultimate goal of which is to bring an end to this injustice. We reiterate our commitment to promoting a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Question of Palestine in all its aspects, including for the plight of the Palestine refugees, and reaffirm our support to the Palestinian people in their struggle 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.

I thank you, Mr. President.