



**CHAIR OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
VIENNA CHAPTER**



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE OBSERVANCE OF THE
“INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE”**

Vienna, 29 November 2016

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to address this important meeting on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on the occasion of the observance of “the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”. I express my deep appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this meeting. I also express my appreciation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its important work in promoting the cause of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Chairman,

2. The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people is a solemn occasion for renewing our commitment to a just and lasting solution for the question of Palestine and a durable peace in the Middle East. NAM fully supports the observance of this day, as it provides an opportunity every year to reflect on the situation of the continued occupation, which has deprived the Palestinian people from their basic rights and subjected them to untold pain and suffering for many decades and lies at the heart of the Palestinian questions and so many other issues in the Middle East.
3. The question of Palestine has been on the United Nations agenda for more than 67 years by now, and yet the Palestinian people have no glimmer of hope for realizing their right to self-determination and freedom. Despite decades of their participation in peace efforts in good-faith, the Palestinians' plight has worsened on all fronts due to Israel's persistent illegal policies and practices that undermine all peace efforts.
4. By resorting to the state-of-the-art weapons and waging disproportionate war, Israel, the Occupying Power, is continuing its brutal acts against the Palestinian people. NAM condemns the recent Israeli attacks against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.



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5. It is disturbing that Israel, the Occupying Power, continues to pursue such illegal practices with blatant impunity despite the prohibitions of such actions under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, relevant United Nations resolutions, and the 2004 ICJ Advisory Opinion. The impact of these illegal measures on the Palestinian civilian population, including women and children and the most vulnerable such as Palestine refugees, must be seriously considered and measures must be taken in accordance with international law to remedy this injustice.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The ongoing illegal Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian Territory continue to be a matter of grave concern. In this regard, NAM calls for urgent action and practical measures by the international community, in particular by the Security Council, to compel the Occupying Power to cease completely its illegal and destructive settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to abide by all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, UN resolutions, the Advisory Opinion and its obligations under the Road Map in this regard.
7. NAM also expresses its grave condemnation regarding the illegal Israeli practices aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status, character and geographic nature of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, so as to facilitate de facto annexation of more Palestinian land. Provocations by Israeli settlers and extremists, including vis-à-vis sensitive religious sites, particularly Al-Aqsa Mosque, in the recent days and weeks have worsened the situation on the ground, deepening already grave doubts regarding Israel's claimed commitment to the two-State solution and peace.

Mr. Chairman,

8. The Movement expresses deep concern at the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process and calls for immediate and practical efforts to advance a fair and credible peace process based on the relevant UN resolutions and other major initiatives undertaken in the past decades. We stress that the peace process must ensure an end to the occupation of the Palestinian Territory and the other Arab territories under the Israeli occupation, including East Jerusalem; the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination in an independent, sovereign, and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital; and a just solution for the plight of the Palestinian refugees based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III). It is such a just solution that will guarantee the peace that the international community has long searched for and committed itself to it.

I thank you, Mr. President.