



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. SAMUEL MONCADA, DEPUTY FOREIGN
AFFAIRS MINISTER OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA AND
SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY, ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

Paris, 15 January 2017

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).
2. The Non-Aligned Movement has repeatedly emphasized that the international community as a whole has a key role to play in supporting and promoting a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole. And, precisely in that spirit, we would like to thank the Government of the Republic of France for this historic initiative, which is of outmost importance in the current juncture, as it emphasizes the urgency of this issue.
3. This International Conference is aimed, in our view, at paving the way for peace and stability in the region, through the achievement of a long-overdue solution to the question of Palestine, by bringing an end to the Israeli occupation, within a concrete timeframe, and in accordance with the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, whereby the State of Palestine and the State of Israel can live side by side in peace and security, and realizing independence for Palestine and the inalienable rights and justice for the Palestinian people. These are all undeniably core elements of a just and lasting solution to the conflict.
4. In this regard, the Movement supports, and is ready to contribute to, all efforts to promote peace prospects, 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. This includes, in addition, efforts to support and accelerate serious negotiations between the parties for the resolution of all final status issues.

Mr. President,

5. The Non-Aligned Movement believes that the Arab-Israeli conflict is at the core of the turmoil and instability that affects the Middle East, with global repercussions, which is



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



why we reaffirm our full support and willingness to work towards the achievement of a peaceful and political solution to the conflict.

6. The Israeli foreign military occupation, which has been now going on for fifty years, continues to entrench on the ground the reality of one State, with illegal settlements activities further deepening that reality, undermining the viability of the two-State solutions, and which have resulted in the current the stalemate in the peace negotiations. This is the reason why this issue remains a priority in the agenda of the Movement, as stressed during the XVII Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement held in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, in September 2016, in which 2017 was declared as the International Year to End the Israeli Occupation of Palestine.
7. The continuation of such illegal policies and practices undermine the realization of peace. In this regard, the Movement deplores the imposition of policies and measures by Israel, the occupying Power, aimed at forcibly and illegally altering the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and prejudging the final outcome of negotiations. Moreover, it must be stressed that, in our view, such illegal measures, including in particular the construction and expansion of settlements and the Wall, the confiscation of Palestinian land and the forced displacement of the Palestinian civilian population by other illegal means, are totally contradictory to the objective of peace.

Mr. President,

8. The Security Council must address, on a priority basis, Israel's violations of international law, in particular of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Council's own resolutions, and the UN Charter itself. Therefore, the Security Council must uphold its primary role in the maintenance of international peace and security, in order to address the current situation and bring a halt to Israel's ongoing illegal colonization of the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the source of innumerable other violations, including flagrant human rights violations, by the occupying Power and which is destroying the possibility of the two-State solution approved by the Council's own resolutions, beginning with resolution 242 (1967), as well as other relevant resolutions adopted thereafter.
9. Accordingly, the Non-Aligned Movement welcomes the recent adoption of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), which addresses critical and core issues and represents an important contribution of the Council to salvaging the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders and the prospects for a just and lasting peace. We call for its immediate and full implementation, particularly with regards to the immediate and complete



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



cessation of all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the dismantlement of all existing settlements.

10. We also recognize the importance of the steps and efforts called for therein, both by the parties and the international community as a whole, in line with their respective obligations, and call for the exertion of serious and responsible efforts in this regard.
11. However, the Non-Aligned Movement notes with regret how Israel, the occupying Power, has taken punitive actions against those members of the Security Council that recently voted in favor of resolution 2334 (2016), while continuing with its settlement and colonization activities with the purpose of advancing the illegal appropriation of Palestinian territory, in a clear challenge and contempt of the international community and international law. These actions have also been accompanied by hostile statements of Israeli officials, at the highest level, that provide a clear indication of Israel's reluctance to abide by the international legal framework.

Mr. President,

12. The achievement of positive results requires the willingness of the parties and of the leaders that drive change in a meaningful way. It is a fact that the colonization practices of the occupying Power are an obstacle for achieving and sustaining peace. Therefore, the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement believe that, insofar as Israel continues with such illegal practices, the two-State solution will only be a chimera. Hence, we hope that International Conferences as this one will be able to compel respect for international law, to clearly reaffirm the international consensus on the two-State solution, and to revive a credible peace process, in order to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.
13. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement calls once again the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to intensify efforts for addressing the current political and humanitarian crisis being faced by the Palestinian people under this half-century occupation. Urgent efforts are required to ameliorate the critical situation on the ground, de-escalate tensions and help advance credible peace negotiations, based on clear parameters and within a set timeframe, towards the achievement of a solution that guarantees the complete end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, that began in 1967, the rights of the Palestinian people, and the independence of a sovereign, contiguous, and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

I thank you, Mr. President.