



**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 July 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) at this quarterly open debate on a matter to which we have historically attached particular importance; such as, 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.

**Mr. President,**

3. During the XVII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in September 2016, in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, the Heads of State or Government reaffirmed their abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people, as well as their unwavering support for their just cause, while appealing to the Member States of the Movement to renew their commitment and further strengthen and coordinate their efforts to promote the realization of justice and rights for the Palestinian people in light of the prevailing critical situation and diminishing prospects for a peaceful solution.
4. This was also the case almost a month ago, on 27 June 2017, when the Ministerial Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on Palestine issued a Political Declaration in Support and Solidarity with the Palestinian People to solemnly mark the fiftieth year since the onset of Israel’s foreign occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands in 1967, and to solemnly reflect on other upcoming solemn anniversaries, including the seventieth anniversary of the General Assembly’s decision to partition Mandate Palestine by its adoption of resolution 181 (II) on 29 November 1947 and the seventieth year since the 1948 Nakba endured by the Palestinian people.

**Mr. President,**



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5. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) stresses hereby that a just, lasting solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects remains a priority on the Movement's agenda. Moreover, we reaffirm 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. In this regard, the Movement is ready to contribute to the achievement of a just, lasting and peaceful solution, and 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 in its Communiqué of 27 December 2016. We believe that this resolution provides the most viable path, setting forth the essential requirements and parameters for a just solution, which would preserve the two-State solution on the 1967 lines and 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.
6. The Member States of the Movement continue to call for its full respect and implementation, stressing that it remains central to redressing the situation on the ground, de-escalating tensions, and fostering an appropriate environment for the pursuit of peace. In this regard, we welcome the second report of the Secretary-General regarding the implementation of said resolution, as orally delivered to the Security Council by Mr. Nikolay Mladenov, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and United Nations Special Coordinator. However, we reiterate the need for a substantive written report to be presented, in order to support the Council's duties and to ensure proper documentation of the implementation of the resolution's provisions, especially in light of Israel's continued disregard of the Council and its resolutions.

**Mr. President,**

7. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) expresses its grave concern regarding recent developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular the continuation and escalation of illegal policies and measures by Israel, the occupying Power, aimed at expanding its illegal settlement campaign and further entrenching its half-century occupation of the Palestinian land and encroachment and violation of the rights of the Palestinian people. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the most recent issuance by the occupying Israeli authorities of permits for the building of over 1,800 illegal settlement units in occupied East Jerusalem, as well as the fact that these policies continue regardless of the fact that they will surely lead to the eviction and dispossession of more Palestinians, including in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.



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8. Rather than ceasing its violations, reversing the negative trends on the ground and proving its commitment to the two-State solution on the basis of the 1967 lines, as demanded by the Security Council and the international community as a whole, Israel continues to act with contempt to the Council and in breach of its legal obligations.
9. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement strongly condemn 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). Moreover, we are alarmed by and deeply deplore such flagrant contempt of Israel, the occupying Power, of the unequivocal decision 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. The Movement further recalls the call by the Security Council for an end to all acts of violence against civilians, including acts of terror, as well as all acts of provocation, incitement and destruction.

### **Mr. President,**

10. Regarding Gaza, the situation remains of great concern to the Movement, particularly the deteriorating humanitarian situation, making it “unlivable” by 2020, according to UN officials on the ground. In fact, the latest report by the UN Country Team found that “most projections for 2020 have in fact deteriorated even further and faster than anticipated”. In this connection, the continuing obstruction of the reconstruction of destroyed homes, properties and civilian infrastructure caused by the 2014 Israeli aggression, as well as the extremely slow pace of recovery of Gaza due to the ongoing illegal Israeli blockade, has forced thousands of families to remain displaced and homeless, and prevented the rebuilding of vital infrastructure, including that related to electricity supply, gravely impacting humanitarian, socio-economic, psychosocial and environmental conditions. We reiterate our call for the complete lifting of the 10-year long Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, while also stressing 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.
11. In addition, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates that it deplores in the strongest terms Israel's systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people, including,



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*inter alia*, the willful killing and injury of civilians, including peaceful protesters; violent military raids, including, in particular, in refugee camps, terrorizing the civilian population; imprisonment and detention of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children and women; confiscation of land, property and demolition of Palestinian homes; forced displacement of Palestinians, particularly Bedouin communities; and settler terrorism and violence against Palestinian civilians. We remind this Council of its duties in this regard.

12. The Member States of the Movement further reiterate their calls for the intensification of international efforts aimed at achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution, and reiterates its readiness to cooperate and support all relevant efforts, in line with the decisions taken during the XVII Summit of Island of Margarita, which declared 2017 as the International Year to end the Israeli Occupation of Palestine. In this regard, and on the basis of the Movement's quest for the establishment of a peaceful and prosperous world and its role as an anti-war and peace-loving force, we offer the good offices of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as a Front for World Peace, and in favor, in particular, of the respect of the right to life and the inalienable right of the peoples to their self-determination and independence.

### **Mr. President,**

13. 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).
14. In addition, the Member States of the Movement emphasized 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.
15. To conclude, the Movement avails itself of this opportunity to encourage Member States of the Organization to redouble their ongoing efforts aimed at overcoming the continuing financial shortfalls of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), with a view to ensure adequate, sufficient, predictable and



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sustained funding for the agency for the duration of its mandate, so that it can fully meet the needs of Palestinian refugees and fulfill its humanitarian mission.

I thank you, Mr. President.