



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. SAMUEL MONCADA,
AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE OPEN DEBATE OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE
EAST, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION**

New York, 20 April 2017

Madam 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 the Situation in the Middle East, including the Question of Palestine.
2. 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.
3. In this regard, we hereby stress 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 set forth the essential requirements and parameters for such a solution.
4. The resolution 2334 (2016) of the Security Council was strongly welcomed and supported by the Movement in its Communiqué of 27 December 2016. The Non-Aligned Movement continues to call for its 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 first report of the Secretary-General regarding the implementation of said resolution, as orally delivered to the



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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 fulfillment of this responsibility and in support of the Council's duties to advance the resolution's objectives, especially in light of Israel's continued disregard of the Council and its resolutions.

Madam President,

5. Our Movement 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. 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 its legal obligations.
6. 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.

Madam President,

7. Regarding Gaza, the situation remains of great concern to the Movement. The continuing obstruction of the reconstruction and 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, gravely impacting humanitarian, socio-economic, psychosocial and environmental conditions. We reiterate our call for the complete lifting of the 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



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occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967, and of the unequivocal calls for an end to this half-century occupation.

8. 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, *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.
9. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates its 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.

Mr. President,

10. The Member States of the Movement condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the acts of aggression committed by Israel against the Syrian Arab Republic on 17 March 2017, considering such acts as a grave violation of the Syrian sovereignty and a breach of international law, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces of 1974. In this regard, we request the Security Council of the United Nations to shoulder its responsibility by clearly condemning these acts of aggression and taking the necessary measures to prevent its recurrence, and holding Israel accountable for threatening regional and international peace and security.
11. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates its condemnation of all measures taken by Israel, the Occupying Power, to alter the legal, physical and demographic status of the Occupied Syrian Golan. In this regard, and in line with our principled position, we demand once again that Israel abides by Security Council resolution 491 (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).

I thank you, Madam President.