



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



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. SAMUEL MONCADA,
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ON BEHALF OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING
THE TENTH EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE AND THE STATUS OF
THE CITY OF JERUSALEM**

New York, 21 December 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), which, together with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the League of Arab States (LAS), had requested that this Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly be resumed, taking into account the most recent developments in relation to the Question of Palestine, and stressing the importance we give to the future of its heroic people, as well as to the status of the City of Jerusalem. We seize this opportunity also to express our gratitude for your prompt action on our request, which is in line with the shout of the free peoples of the world.
2. Moreover, it is worth highlighting the fact that this Plenary Meeting has been called in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 377 A (V) of 03 November 1950 (Uniting for Peace), taking into account the fact that the Security Council remains silent and paralyzed on this issue, in spite of its Charter duties, as demonstrated last Monday, 18 December 2017, when the Delegation of the United States of America casted a veto during the vote of the draft Security Council resolution on the Status of the City of Jerusalem, as presented by the distinguished Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Mr. President,

3. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) expresses its grave concerns regarding ongoing violations being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including attempts aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the City of Jerusalem. In this regard, we deplore all breaches of international law and provocations in the City, perpetrated by whomever and whenever, stressing that such actions have no legal validity and are null and void, as determined by the Security Council of the United Nations. We further reaffirm all Security Council and



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



General Assembly resolutions relating to Jerusalem and confirming that it is an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

4. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement express their grave concerns about declared intentions and plans announced by the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, last 06 December 2017, of transferring its Embassy in Israel to the City of Jerusalem, and any other related action that will further consolidate Israel's control and unlawful *de facto* annexation of the City. Please allow us to strongly caution yet again that such provocative actions, in disrespect of Security Council resolutions, will further heighten tensions, with potentially far-reaching repercussions.
5. In this regard, we call for a halt to all violations and provocations from the Government of the United States, and recall the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the prohibition on the acquisition of territory by force, all relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and all other applicable provisions of international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. In specific, we recall Security Council resolutions 476 (1980) and 478 (1980), by which the Council, inter alia, clearly reconfirmed "that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem have no legal validity" and must be rescinded forthwith; affirmed "that the enactment of the "basic law" by Israel constitutes a violation of international law"; decided "not to recognize the "basic law and such other actions by Israel that, as a result of this law, seek to alter the character and status of Jerusalem"; and called upon all Member States to accept this decision and expressly called upon "those States that have established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw such missions from the Holy City". In this regard, we call for the full respect of the relevant Security Council resolutions and decisions, which are legally binding for all of us, as Member States of this Organization.

Mr. President,

6. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) cautions that, against the backdrop of an extremely volatile situation and diminishing prospects for the achievement of a just peace, provocative, unlawful and unilateral actions in Jerusalem, and the pervasive threat of such actions, apart from jeopardizing the possibility of achieving the two-State solution on the pre-1967 borders, could seriously destabilize the fragile situation on the ground with dangerous impact. In this regard, it recalls Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), adopted almost a year ago, in which, inter alia, the Council underlined that it "will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations", and called on all parties "to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, with the aim, inter alia,



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



of de-escalating the situation on the ground, rebuilding trust and confidence, demonstrating through policies and actions a genuine commitment to the two-State solution, and creating the conditions necessary for promoting peace”.

7. Therefore, the Member States of the Movement reaffirm their commitment to contributing towards realization of a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspects in accordance with international law. In this regard, we stress the urgency of collective efforts to promote peace and security through the achievement, without further delay, of an end to the Israeli occupation that began more than fifty years ago, in 1967, and call for the intensification of all international and regional efforts towards this end, including those related to the preservation of the two-State solution, based on the pre-1967 borders, in respect of the longstanding terms of reference of a peace settlement endorsed by the international community, 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. It must be stressed that only a comprehensive solution to the Question of Palestine will allow us to achieve the long-sought peace in the Middle East region and to put a final end to the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.
8. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms its longstanding support and solidarity with the just cause of Palestine and its strong commitment to continue supporting the heroic Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including their right to self-determination, freedom and independence in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, which is vital for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and sustainable peace.

I thank you, Mr. President.