



**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 CONSIDERATION OF
AGENDA ITEM 50, ENTITLED “REPORT OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES”, WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

New York, 07 November 2017

Mr. President,

1. I have the honor for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to take the floor on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in consideration of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.
2. At the outset, allow us to express our gratitude to the Acting Chair of the Special Committee, as well as to its other members, for their much valuable efforts, as well as for the detailed and comprehensive report contained in document A/72/42870.

Mr. President,

3. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) deeply regrets that the inquiries of the Special Committee continue to yield negative results, as the report details a worsening human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly with regards to the escalation of violence against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, since September 2015, and the ongoing dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, including as a result of the ten-year illegal Israeli blockade. In this regard, the Movement reiterates its deep concern that Israel, the occupying Power, refused yet again to cooperate with the Special Committee, preventing the Special Committee from observing the human rights situation on the ground firsthand and from holding consultations with the relevant Israeli authorities or to gain access to victims in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and other Occupied Territories, within the framework of and in fulfillment of its mandate, as provided by the UN General Assembly.



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



4. Moreover, the Member States of the Movement express their grave concern about the ongoing human rights violations being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population, as detailed in the reports before this Committee and other relevant United Nations reports in the year.
5. The Member States of the Movement condemn, in particular, Israel's continuing settlement construction and expansion activities throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around Occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the Occupied Syrian Golan in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and numerous UN resolutions. All such measures and activities are illegal under international law, including under the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), and must be completely and immediately ceased. They clearly remain at the core of many of the human rights violations being perpetrated by the occupying Power, constituting the main obstacle to peace and directly threatening the viability of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders.
6. Moreover, these illegal colonization measures and other systematic violations by Israel, including the continued construction of settlements and the wall and related infrastructure; the confiscation of land and property; the exploitation of natural resources; demolition of homes; the forced displacement and threat of forced transfer of Palestinian civilians, including in particular Bedouin communities; severe restrictions on movement; the revocation of residency rights in Occupied East Jerusalem; the arrest and detention of Palestinian civilians, including children; incessant violence, terror and provocations by Israeli settlers and extremists, including at the holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly at Al-Aqsa Mosque; obstruction of humanitarian access and attacks on medical personnel and destruction of humanitarian aid; continued discrimination and lack of accountability in the justice system; and other measures of collective punishment, have worsened conditions on the ground, further destabilizing the situation and exacerbating high tensions.

Mr. President,

7. In addition to constituting grave breaches of international humanitarian law, these ongoing illegal colonization practices, which may amount to war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), have blatantly escalated in the recent period, in clear contempt of the global calls for Israel's compliance with the law and cessation of all such activities. It is high time to end this abhorrent Israeli occupation, which has entered its 50th year in flagrant violation of international law and countless General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016).
8. Furthermore, according to the Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Israel's policies and practices continue to violate



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



fundamental human rights and the dignity of the Palestinian people and other Arabs living under its occupation, while affecting every aspect of their lives. In this regard, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is seriously concerned about the disturbing findings of the report, particularly regarding continuing tensions, military incursions and raids by the Israeli occupying forces and clashes with Palestinian youth and peaceful protesters in many parts of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, on an almost daily basis, including in and around densely-populated Palestine refugee camps.

9. The ongoing dire humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip due to the illegal Israeli blockade and the destructive impact of successive military aggressions are also of great concern to the Movement. This situation also constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian and human rights law and requires immediate attention. Urgent efforts are required to alleviate the suffering and hardships of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, including those internally displaced and those suffering from food insecurity, loss of livelihoods and widespread poverty, and to reverse the severe de-development trajectory there. The Movement thus calls again for the acceleration of long-delayed reconstruction and economic recovery, while stressing the important role of UNRWA in providing vital assistance to the refugee population in Gaza and calling for support for its humanitarian and development efforts.
10. Moreover, the Movement calls upon Israel, yet again, to promptly and unconditionally end its illegal blockade of Gaza and open all its crossing points in accordance with international humanitarian law and all UN resolutions, including Security Council resolution 1860 (2009).

Mr. President,

11. In the reporting period, Israeli settler violence also continued to result in Palestinian civilian casualties and destruction of property and was reported to be a factor that contributed to forcing Palestinians off their land. Harassment, intimidation and attacks, many constituting terror, by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, have continued unabatedly. Moreover, all such illegal settlement activities are undermining the contiguity of the West Bank, jeopardizing the contiguity of the Palestinian land and future viability of the Palestinian State, and thus imperiling the two-State solution, while also violating the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, in addition to affecting significantly their social, cultural and religious rights.
12. At the same time, the occupying Power has used several so-called legal and administrative measures to expand its control and advance its attempts to *de facto* annex more Palestinian territory, including the declaration of areas as "State land", the seizure of land for archaeological excavations, the creation of national parks and the development of tourist



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



activities in the Palestinian land, as well as the imposition of other illegitimate schemes and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem .

13. In this connection, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) categorically condemns the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of Palestine by the occupying Power, which deliberately denies Palestinians right to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and their right to development, and perpetuates their state of dependence regarding, among others, water and energy resources.
14. The Movement thus reiterates its call for urgent action and practical measures by the international community, in particular by the Security Council, to compel the occupying Power to abide forthwith and scrupulously by all of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the many relevant UN resolutions, and the ICJ Advisory Opinion. This is urgent to uphold international law, to alleviate the human rights crisis and protection crisis prevailing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to avert further human suffering and ensure protection of the civilian population, to stop the escalation and further destabilization of the situation on the ground, and to salvage the prospects for peace.

Mr. President,

15. Now, turning to the Syrian Golan, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms once again that all unlawful actions by Israel, the Occupying Power, since 1967, including discriminatory and illegal policies towards the Syrian population; the continued deployment of landmines and the presence of Israeli army bases in and around Syrian residential and civilian areas; the construction and expansion of settlements; the forcing of a new curriculum and education system on Syrians; and recent statements by Israel that it exercises sovereignty over the occupied Syrian Golan, constitute a clear violation of international law, the UN Charter and relevant resolutions, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981), and the Fourth Geneva Convention. In this regard, the Movement demands that Israel abides by resolution 497, and withdraw completely from the Occupied Syrian Golan to the borders of 4 June 1967.
16. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), in line with the decisions adopted during its XVII Summit, held on September 2016, in the Island of Margarita, Venezuela, stresses, inter alia, the urgency of achieving a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and a long-overdue objective of the Movement, on the basis of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. In this regard, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the immediate restoration of the inalienable rights of the heroic Palestinian people to self-determination, and their right to their independent and viable State of Palestine, with East



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees on the basis of General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

I thank you, Mr. President.