



**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), IN OCCASION OF THE SPECIAL  
MEETING IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

*New York, 29 November 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) during this solemn meeting in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People”, particularly today, which marks another somber anniversary for the people of Palestine: 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 continuation of their plight and the denial of their rights and independence.
2. At the outset, we would like to express, on behalf of the Member States of the Movement, our deep appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this special meeting, to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its important work over the many years in promoting the just cause and rights of the Palestinian people, and to the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat for its much valuable assistance and support.
3. Similarly, the Movement reaffirms its sincere appreciation the Commissioner-General and the entire staff of UNRWA for all of their valuable efforts, in adverse conditions, in helping to alleviate the suffering and address the plight and needs of the Palestine refugees, as well as to all of the United Nations agencies’ with special programs providing vital assistance and support to the Palestinian people, in line with the permanent responsibility of the United Nations and the international community towards the Question of Palestine until the achievement of a just, lasting, comprehensive and peaceful solution.

**Mr. President,**

4. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) fully supports the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, as it serves as a prominent occasion for reflecting on the continuing injustice and dire situation being endured by the Palestinian people across the decades, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,



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and including in the blockaded Gaza Strip, due to the continuing denial of their inalienable rights by Israel, the occupying Power.

5. After more than half a century of a foreign occupation that has subjected the Palestinian people to gross and systematic human rights violations and untold pain and suffering and seventy years since the General Assembly decision to partition Mandate Palestine and the ensuing *Nakba* in 1948 and the conflict we continue to face, it is clear that the Palestinian question lies at the heart of, and is among the root causes of so many of the other crises and dilemmas we witness in the Middle East today. This international day of solidarity provides an opportunity for renewing our shared commitment to a just and lasting solution for the Question of Palestine and ultimately to a durable peace in the Middle East as a whole.

### **Mr. President,**

6. From the very establishment of the United Nations, the question of Palestine has been on its agenda. Seven decades have passed, and yet the Palestinian people continue to be deprived of their inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and freedom, and are still counting on the effective contribution of the United Nations, in accordance with international law and the relevant resolutions, for fulfilling their aspirations of achieving the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine.
7. Despite decades of their participation in peace efforts, in good-faith; despite their proven commitment to the two-State solution for peace; despite their adherence to international law; and despite the painful compromises made, the Palestinians' plight has worsened on all fronts and the situation on the ground is dramatically deteriorating due to Israel's persistent illegal policies and practices, which have further destabilized and exacerbated the situation on the ground, undermined all peace efforts and obstructed justice over these years.
8. As the Security Council remains silent and paralyzed on this issue, in spite of its Charter duties, the international community continues to witness in horror Israel's brutal military occupation in all its manifestations, in breach of international law and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Under the umbrella of this unjust occupation, the occupying Power continues its oppression and collective punishment of the defenseless Palestinian people and continues to perpetrate grave human rights violations and reported war crimes. This includes, *inter alia*, the use of military force against civilians leading to death and injury, including among children; the colonization of Palestinian land through the confiscation of land, demolition of homes, construction of settlements and the wall, exploitation of natural resources, and the transfer of hundreds of thousands of Israeli settlers to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East



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Jerusalem; the unlawful detention and imprisonment and administrative detention of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children and women; and the inhumane blockade being imposed on the Gaza Strip.

9. In light of this continuing illegal and unjust situation, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) calls once again for measures to be taken in accordance with international law to remedy the violation of the human rights of the Palestinians, including through the provision of protection to the Palestinian people for as long as this occupation continues.

**Mr. President,**

10. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) condemns Israel's continuing military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, in breach of international law and UN resolutions. In this regard, we further condemn the illegal Israeli settlement activities by which the occupying Power has continued to colonize the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to forcibly displace Palestinian civilians in grave breach of international law and Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). We also condemn the provocations and incitement by groups of extremist settlers, including against the holy sites in occupied East Jerusalem and the vandalization of mosques and churches which are fueling tensions and religious sensitivities that risk further destabilization. Consequently, we demand that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease all such violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, and fully abide by its legal obligations, including under the IV Geneva Convention.
11. Israel must cease all attempts and measures aimed at colonizing the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and forcibly displacing thousands of Palestinian civilians, with a view towards altering the demographic composition, legal status, character and geographic nature of this Territory and facilitating the *de facto* annexation of more Palestinian land. All such illegal measures are violating the human rights of the Palestinian people and are undermining the realization of just and lasting peace on the basis of the two-State solution, the viability of which the occupying Power is destroying on a daily basis.

**Mr. President,**

12. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) demands once again the full and immediate lifting and ending of the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israel, which is now in its tenth year, and continues to severely affect all aspects of life of the entire Palestinian civilian population and constitutes a massive collective punishment. This inhumane blockade impedes the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip from the devastation inflicted by the Israeli occupying forces in 2014, and obstructs economic recovery and development due to lack



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of sustained and regular movement of persons and goods between the Strip and the outside world, including the link, unity and movement between Gaza and the West Bank.

13. In this regard, we seize this opportunity to welcome the recent steps being taken towards Palestinian reconciliation, including the signing of the unity agreement between Palestinian parties on 12 October 2017, under the auspices of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and express our full support to efforts aimed at ensuring Palestinian unity and the effective functioning of the Palestinian national consensus government in the Gaza Strip.
14. But a real change in the situation on the ground requires an end to all of the occupation's illegal measures and their reversal towards bringing this occupation to an end. It is unacceptable that Israel, the occupying Power, continues to pursue all the above mentioned illegal and deplorable activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with blatant impunity despite the prohibitions of such actions under international law. Intensified, coordinated efforts, including measures of accountability, must be made by the international community to compel Israel to immediately cease all of its illegal policies and practices, including to commit it to the path of peace.

### **Mr. President,**

15. The solidarity of the international community with the just Palestinian cause must be also directed to all relevant efforts in support of the independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine in all of the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel in 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the relevant resolutions, and to support the admission of Palestine to the United Nations as a full Member State.
16. Furthermore, considering the lack of significant advances in the Middle East peace process, which remains stalled despite decades of negotiations, during the XVII NAM Summit held in Margarita Island, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in September 2016, the Heads of State or Government of the Movement stressed the urgent need for urgently advancing a political horizon and credible peace process firmly based on relevant Security Council resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, and the Arab Peace Initiative. In this regard, we support immediate and practical efforts in support of this objective for the ultimate achievement of a just solution and lasting peace.
17. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates on this important day its unwavering commitment to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, with the question of Palestine at its core, and to the immediate restoration of the inalienable rights of the heroic Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to their independent, contiguous and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees on the basis of General



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Assembly resolution 194 (III). It is such a just solution that will guarantee the peace that the international community and the Palestinian people have long searched for and committed to and usher in a new era of peace and stability for the region.

I thank you, Mr. President.