



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



Statement by H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, in his capacity as Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau, at the Debate of the Security Council on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.
New York, 9 November 2006.

Mr. President:

In my capacity as Chair of Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, and on behalf of all the Member States of this Movement, I have the honor to address the Council on the deterioration of the current situation in the Middle East, especially in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

This statement was agreed by the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement this morning.

Mr. President:

The Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement expresses once again its grave concern at the continued deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, during the recent period, particularly as a result of the excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force by Israel, the occupying Power, which has caused extensive loss of civilian Palestinian life and injures, including among children and women.

The Movement condemns in particular the military assaults being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Gaza Strip, which has caused loss of life and extensive destruction of Palestinian property and vital infrastructure.

The Movement reaffirms the continued validity of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 1322 (2000), 1397 (2002), 1402 (2002), 1403 (2002), 1435 (2002), 1515 (2003) and 1554 (2004).

The Movement emphasizes the need to preserve the institutions of the Palestinian National Authority and Palestinian infrastructure and properties.

The Movement expresses grave concern at the dire humanitarian situation of the Palestinian people and calls for the provision of emergency assistance to them.

In light of the present situation, the Movement urges the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility according to UN Charter in the preservation of international peace and security by taking the following measures:

- 1- Demanding that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately cease its aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, immediately withdraw its forces from within the Gaza Strip to positions prior to June 2006;
- 2- Calling for an immediate ceasefire between the Israeli and Palestinian side;
- 3- Calling also for the establishment and dispatch of a UN Observer force to supervise the ceasefire;
- 4- Calling upon Israel, the occupying Power, to scrupulously abide by its obligations and responsibilities under the Geneva Conventions relative to the Protection of Civilians Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.

In that regard, the Movement calls upon the international community, including the Quartet, to take immediate steps, including confidence-building measures between the parties, with the objective of resuming peace negotiations and restarting the peace process.

The Movement will remain seized of this important issue.

And thus how our statement concludes, which will be distributed as official documents of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Thank you.