



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



**DRAFT STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE DELEGATION OF
THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, ON BEHALF OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), DURING THE 38th PLENARY
MEETING OF THE 10th EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE**

New York, 13 June 2018

Mr. President,

1. It is with a great level of responsibility that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela takes the floor on behalf of the 120 Member States that comprise the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at this emergency special session to address the Question of Palestine; a matter to which we have historically attached great importance.

Mr. President,

2. At the outset, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirm once again its abiding solidarity with the Palestinian people and its unwavering support for their just cause.
3. The situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem is beyond critical. Recent violence by Israel, the occupying Power, have only heightened tensions, hardship and despair, notably in Gaza, intensifying the need for action to save civilian lives, including through measures to ensure protection to Palestinian civilians and to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis inflicted by the Israeli blockade, which has devastated Gaza and must be immediately and completely lifted.
4. Since 30 March 2018, Palestinian civilians, in exercise of their right to peacefully protest, have engaged in the “Great March of Return”, a peaceful civilian protest against Israel’s illegal occupation, oppression and dispossession of the Palestinian people for more than fifty years. Tragically, in the context of these peaceful protests, as of today, at least 125 Palestinians have been killed, including 15 children, and nearly 14,000 civilians have been injured by the occupying forces. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement reiterate their outright condemnation of the killings of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli occupying forces.
5. Moreover, it should be noted that out of those Palestinians killed, over 60 of them, including children, took place on 14 May 2018, the very same day of the unilateral and provocative move of the Embassy of the United States of America to Israel from Tel



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



Aviv to the City of Jerusalem, in contravention of the provisions of relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council. As we have stated before, such provocative and unilateral actions will only further heighten tensions, with potentially far-reaching repercussions.

6. This outrageous massacre was the result of the criminal brutality by the occupying forces of the Occupying Power, who disproportionately engaged in the use of force against Palestinian civilians, through the use of live ammunition, in violation of international law. In this regard, the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) while condemning Israel's excessive and disproportionate use of force against innocent civilians reiterates its support for an independent and transparent investigation of these killings and for international action to ensure accountability and avoid Israel's impunity for these atrocities.
7. The current situation is clearly unsustainable. These tragic events in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are a clear evidence of the need for the international community to redouble its efforts to achieve a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the question of Palestine in all its aspect, in accordance with international law. The only way to put an end to this protracted conflict is through peaceful means, based on the two-State solution, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with a view to establishing a sovereign and independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. President,

8. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates its grave concern about the lack of accountability for all the violations committed by Israel, which fosters impunity and destabilizes the situation on the ground, while diminishing the prospects for peace. Hence, we continue to call for international action, particularly by the Security Council, to ensure accountability for and a cessation of the violations committed by the occupying Power. Israel must comply with its duties and responsibilities under international law. Additionally, the international community must ensure the protection of Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip and across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in order to address the dire state of insecurity of the occupied population and prevent the loss of more innocent human life, in accordance with humanitarian and human rights law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.
9. In this regard, the Member States of the Movement wish to put on record that they deeply regret the recent veto casted by the Delegation of the United States of America in the Security Council, on the draft resolution presented by the Delegation of the State of Kuwait, which was aimed at addressing the recent escalation of violence and pressing



CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING BUREAU OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT



need for protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and particularly in the Gaza Strip. We therefore express our concern that the Security Council has been unable to fulfill its mandate on this important question due to the prevalence of particular interests of a permanent member.

10. Moreover, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reiterates that Israel's killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians cannot be neither tolerated nor excused, and the occupying Power must fully abide by its obligations under international law. Hence, we call for immediate steps to be taken towards ending Israel's closure and restrictions on the Gaza Strip and ensuring the sustained opening of the crossing points for the normal movement and access of persons and goods. The Israeli blockade, which continues to impose untold humanitarian, social and economic suffering on more than 2 million Palestinian children, women and men, must end now.
11. In this regard, we stress once again that the crisis in Gaza must be comprehensively addressed in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law and the relevant resolutions, in the context of the overall situation of the ongoing illegitimate and belligerent Israeli foreign occupation of the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, since 1967, as well as in the context of the unequivocal calls for an end to the occupation of more than half a century.

Mr. President,

12. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) respectfully makes an appeal to all Member States of this General Assembly to support the draft resolution presented by the Arab Group and the OIC, which is in line with the responsibilities of the international community under the UN Charter, international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, relevant resolutions, as well as the collective duty to protect civilians, including children, in situations of armed conflict. This important text addresses the relevant issues concerning the current crisis, including the violence against civilians, and advance the serious consideration of measures to ensure the safety, well-being and protection of the Palestinian civilian population, beginning with a request to the Secretary-General to submit a report, containing, *inter alia*, his proposals on ways and means towards this end, as well as, among others, recommendations regarding an international protection mechanism.
13. Moreover, before concluding the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) reaffirms the validity of all relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council in relation to the Question of Palestine, including the status of Jerusalem, which are legally binding to all Member States of the United Nations and must therefore be fully and effectively implemented.



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



Such respect, particularly of resolutions 476 (1980), 478 (1980) and 2334 (2016), is essential for alleviating the current situation and advancing the prospects for peace. Similarly, the Security Council must uphold its Charter duties and must therefore act to uphold its own resolutions and maintain its credibility.

14. In light of the commemoration of the 70 anniversary this year of the tragic *Nakba* of the Palestinian people, the Member States of the Movement reaffirm their full solidarity with the heroic Palestinian people and their unwavering support for their just cause, in their legitimate struggle for justice, dignity, peace and the exercise of their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and to achieving a just solution for the plight of the Palestine refugees based on resolution 194 (III). It is necessary to put an end, more than ever before, to the prolonged tragedy and suffering of the Palestinian people.
15. To conclude, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) calls for increased efforts to mobilize international efforts, in a collective process, aimed at achieving, without delay, an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a comprehensive, just and lasting peace to the Question of Palestine, on the basis of relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap, while stressing that a peaceful solution to this protracted conflict is key for making peace and stability in the Middle East and at a global scale a reality.

I thank you, Mr. President.